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Life after adoption, adjusting to the transition

Last of 3 parts

By SHANNON WILLIAMS
Recorder Editor

"I had a void in my life, but I was fortunate enough to know that the void was I wanted to be a mother. I have been an auntie and a godmother, but I wanted my own children. I wanted to be a mother more than anything."

That's the way Felicia Montgomery, a 34-year-old native of Tallahassee, Fla., described how her life was five years ago ... before she adopted her two children.

Over the last couple of weeks, The Recorder provided insight on the foster care system and the process of adoption. In today's article, we examine life post-

adoption, and how both the new parents and their children have adapted to the change.

Montgomery, a single, professional woman who after researching the entire adoption process for over a year, adopted boy and girl siblings. She states that the biggest challenge she faced was with her son.

"At the age of 3, he was the oldest and had major detachment problems because he had been physically beaten and placed from home to home. My daughter was a little over a year, so she didn't remember much. As a way of helping my son to deal, he sees a psychologist. We constantly work to overcome the experiences he's had in the past."

An independent woman, Montgomery is confident about

her decision to accomplish the "American dream" without a man and frowns on being labeled a single mom.

"I would like to give them a father, but that's how things have worked out thus far," she explained. "(Being categorized) as a single mom is a stereotype. I'm a parent of two children. I'm a mother, I work hard everyday and I take care of my children. That's what makes me happy, that's the joy of my life."

Forty-five-year-old Madalyn Johnson adopted Brenda, now 5, under different circumstances than Montgomery. Brenda's biological mother, who is also Montgomery's niece was on drugs

► See ADOPTION, Page A2

Madalyn Johnson assists 5-year-old Brenda with riding her favorite horse. Johnson adopted Brenda because Brenda's biological mother was addicted to drugs. (Photo/E. Wheeler)



A national African-American museum gets the go-ahead

Indianapolis also will have its own museum

By ERICKA C. WHEELER
Staff Writer

It seems as if building museums that display African-American heritage, culture and ancestry is becoming a new craze, or maybe a necessity to Americans.

Recently, President Bush signed a bill that would allow a national museum to be displayed in the nation's capital.

This approval first came from Congress with an overwhelmingly 409-9 vote in the House of Representatives.

With Bush's approval, organizers now have the go-ahead to begin fund raisers to help establish the museum.

"It's a very significant step down a very, very long road," said Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., a congressman who has fought for 15 years to have such a bill passed. "The African-American story must be told and a national African-American museum in Washington, D.C., is critical to that story."

Smithsonian Institution, the leader in museum building and managing in Washington will head the African-American museum.

The Smithsonian Board of Regents has chosen to build the museum on the National Mall in the area near the Washington Monument and Jefferson Memorial.

"America will finally have a museum worthy of the generation of men and women who have sacrificed so much and given so deeply to the cause of freedom," said Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., and a member of the Board of Regents.

A \$400 million price tag has been tagged for the start-up cost, which will be divided evenly between federal dollars and private funding.

Since 1988, Rep. Lewis has been fighting to pass the bill, but for years the bill has failed in either the House or the Senate.

But Lewis is not the only person fighting for establishing a location to display Black inheritance and legacy.

Indianapolis plans to have a

► See MUSEUM, Page A2

Legendary Indy coach dies



Former basketball coach, Ray Crowe died Saturday at the age of 88. A longtime coach for Crispus Attucks High School, he led the team to two consecutive championships. As a member of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, he coached Oscar Robertson in 1955 and 1956. When Crowe retired in 1967 he began his work as a member of the Indiana House of Representatives.

Calling will be Friday from 2-8 p.m. and services are Saturday with viewing at 9-11 a.m. The funeral will begin immediately after the viewing. All services will be at the Ray Crowe Gymnasium at Crispus Attucks Middle School.

National program seeking fellows

The National Urban Fellows (NUF) program is seeking minority professionals for the 34th annual fellowship class. NUF is a rigorous, full-time graduate program comprised of two semesters of academic course work and a nine-month mentorship, leading to a master of public administration (MPA) degree from Bernard M. Baruch College, School of Public Affairs, City University of New York.

General requirements include U.S. citizenship, a bachelor's degree, demonstrate leadership abilities and a willingness to relocate.

Local meetings for NUF will be conducted through February 2004. Meeting dates will be continuously scheduled. Applications are due Feb. 27. The first meeting date will be Dec. 29, at Crooked Creek Multiservice center, 2990 Westlane Rd.

For more information contact Tysha Hardy-Sellers at (317) 955-9456.

► See BRIEFS, Page A3

Got a hot news tip? Want to be heard?

If you would like to report any news or share your comments, call the Recorder News Hotline at (317) 924-5143 ext 300



Former convict regrets his life in streets

By ANNETTE L. ANDERSON
Recorder Correspondent

Locked away at the young age of 27, Michael Torrence has always regretted the way his life played out in the streets. Convicted of a Class A felony for drug dealing, he knows now that this was the biggest mistake of his life.

"If I could change my life, I would have never been involved with drugs or the people that go along with them," Torrence said. "You lose too much (being behind bars), and it is not a comfortable life. You are always looking over your shoulder, not sure of what is coming your way. The money is good, but it finally runs out, and so does your luck. A very wise person advised me to get out of the game, but I just wouldn't listen."

"And, I should have been there for my children, because my (bio-

logical) father was not there for me. I had a stepfather, but one who physically abused me, a lot. He used to whip me with an old waffle iron extension cord. He just didn't treat me as well as he did my brothers and sisters - but they were his natural children. Because of this abuse, my uncle stepped in and adopted me."

Torrence, 38 years old, spent nine years, first at Pendleton Reformatory, and then at Miami Correctional Facility, both located in Indiana. And according to the father of two daughters and one son, prison is not a place of rehabilitation. "The only thing prison does is teaches you patience," he noted. "If you want to get anything (positive) out of it, you have to go after it, like I did in education. I got my GED, vocational training in agricultural

► See TORRENCE, Page A3

Pepsico gives School 65 students more Christmas cheer

By JOSHUA COHEN
Staff Writer

For 11 years, students from Raymond F. Brandes School 65 have gotten an extra treat before their holiday break. The Pepsico factory in southern Indianapolis (formerly Quaker Oats) holds a Christmas party for lucky students with food and gift giving.

Employees from Pepsico are given a list of students who will be attending the event and their gift requests. They buy the children two gifts: a piece of clothing and a toy, said Justine Taylor, business planner at Pepsico and this year's organizer of the party.

She has participated in the



event since the first year and always enjoys it.

"What's really nice is to see how willing employees are to give gifts," she said.

The event began with about 20 kids when the plant was located close to the school. After they

► See SCHOOL 65, Page A3

Pragmatic Indianapolis educator urges Blacks to flee from mental bondage

By BRANDON A. PERRY
Staff Writer

The comparatively conservative city of Indianapolis, or Naptown as it has often been called, is not necessarily known for forward-thinking African-American social intellectuals, such as those found in New York during the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s and in Los Angeles during the racially turbulent '60s.

But this scenario might change with the recent release of *Voluntary Servitude: Breaking the Chains of Mental and Psy-*

chological Slavery.

The book has been written by Leroy Robinson, a 10-year social studies teacher in the Indianapolis Public Schools system and a public speaker on the topics of education, leadership and motivation.

Robinson has presented himself with an approach that could place him in the position as one of the most prolific Black theorists of the 21st century.

His main goal with *Voluntary Servitude* is to find and secure

► See BONDAGE, Page A2



Robinson will discuss his book Dec. 28 on WTLC-FM 106.7's, "Sunday Chat Room" from 11 a.m. to noon. Immediately following, he will sign copies of the book at X-Pressions Bookstore, 970 Ft. Wayne Ave. until 3 p.m. (Photo/J. Hurst)

Indianapolis is missing the bus

IndyGo one of worst funded systems in Midwest

By FRAN QUIGLEY
NUVO Newsweekly

It is a given that public transit is an important part of Indianapolis' future: We can enhance the inter-connectedness of our community, spur economic initiatives like cultural tourism, get people to jobs and give some relief to our environment, all through an efficient public transit system.

Elected officials, up to and including Mayor Bart Peterson, wax eloquent on the great opportunities Indianapolis can seize through mass transit.

It's easy to find good arguments to support public transit in this city.

What is hard to find is money to fund it.

A new study comparing



IndyGo President and CEO Gilbert Holmes said, "The kind of minimalist system we have had has made it unattractive to nearly everyone but those who cannot drive and have no alternative."

IndyGo's number of buses and operating budget to similar cities reveals an embarrassing inequity. IndyGo has more square miles to cover and more people to serve than most comparable Midwest

► See THE BUS, Page A3

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- If you need to talk, pull

over or stop at a safe location such as a rest area or local restaurant

- Buy a hands-free kit
- Reduce your risk of becoming drowsy while driving by getting plenty of sleep and limit your driving between

midnight and 6 a.m.

• If you become tired... STOP. Let a passenger drive or pull over at the next exit for a rest.

• If you come into contact with an aggressive driver, get out of the way and avoid eye

contact.

• Don't challenge an aggressive driver by speeding up or attempting to hold your own—ignore the gestures and don't use them yourself

• If you witness a crash, pull over at a safe distance, wait for the police and report the

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ADOPTION

► Continued from Page 1

and couldn't properly care for the child, so Johnson intervened.

"I didn't want (Brenda) to go back into the system because if so, it would be no telling if she would get adopted, or if someone would treat her right. There are a lot of kids in the system that just stay there... I didn't want her to be one of those children."

Johnson, who successfully raised her own biological daughter, currently age 28, describes what she had to get adjusted to the most.

"Shopping," she jokingly said. "Things were so different in 1998 when I first got Brenda than they were in 1975 when I had my own daughter. (For instance) rather than buy a baby bed, which automatically came with a mattress and everything else, I had to purchase everything separately. It was a radical change."

When asked when she plans on explaining adoption to Brenda, Montgomery said "when she gets 15 or 16 because I want her to be old enough to absorb everything I'm telling her. Then if she wants to ask her biological mother any questions, she can."

Currently Brenda's biological mom is restricted from any contact with her.

Leonard and Rhonda Anderson decided to adopt their three children after several unsuccessful

"They're just like a world traveler, they come with a suitcase full of things. When that suitcase opens up, they may have a lot of things going on with them, mostly psychological. You have to be willing to accept them," Felicia Montgomery, parent of two adoptive children.

ful attempts to conceive.

"There are so many children that need homes. So, rather than live a life without children, we decided to adopt. Doing that enabled us to be parents and it also gave the kids a shot at actually having a chance at life with people that genuinely love them," said Leonard.

Studies show that when an individual or couple adopt a child, an adult may sometimes experience some sort of depression during the adjustment process. Rhonda explains the family's trying times, but quickly points out that she wouldn't "call them depressing, more like times of adjusting to the adjustments."

"There were times when things got pretty tough," said Rhonda. "Generally these children have been through so much, that they aren't able to open themselves up

to the adoptive parents. This was frustrating to me because I felt as if the children weren't happy and there was nothing I could do to make it better."

"After I talked it over with some professionals, I understood that it's hard for a child who may have been physically, mentally, verbally abused or even abandoned - to trust someone new. During those first months, the kids probably felt as if this was something that was going to be temporary, no matter how hard we tried to explain differently."

Rhonda Anderson emphasized the importance of being patient and never giving up if faced with a situation like the one her family went through.

Montgomery, who adopted her children in 1998 offers words of advice and encouragement for anyone considering adoption.

"Think about it and research. There are a lot of adoption agencies out there, so make sure they are legal. When you research it and decide what type of child you're willing to accept, don't go back on that."

"Most important is that you have to have a lot of patience, be open-minded and you have to be willing to accept this child unconditionally."

Note: Some of the name in this article were changed to protect the private lives of the sources.

MUSEUM

► Continued from Page 1

completed African-American museum by 2008.

"The board has been moving along at a pretty fast pace," said board president Alpha Blackburn. "We would like to have completion with what White River has allowed us."

The museum is expected to be located between the NCAA Hall of Champions and the National Institute for Fitness and Sports.

But with a tight squeeze be-

tween the two organizations parking issues arose, and building an underground parking lot was suggested.

"We have produced images for the building and models of what the building looks like," she said.

The types of artifacts that will be placed in the museum have still been undecided, but what is sure to be in the museum is a performing arts center.

"We will have a rather substan-

tial performing arts center in the building because we have such a substantial jazz, blues and gospel focus that a performing arts program was a must for the museum," Blackburn noted.

Currently the board is in the process of hiring a fund raising organization to begin the financial steps.

"We are excited to finally begin to put this plan into action, for this has been long overdue for the city."

BONDAGE

► Continued from Page 1

answers, evidence and solutions for the endless cycle of self destruction that seems to be prevalent in both the national and local African-American community.

Robinson said his approach is not political, religious or even social, but psychological. He believes many African Americans have fallen victim to the divide and conquer policy of slaves, as outlined in the 1712 address by slavery advocate Willie Lynch in *Let's Make a Slave*.

The twin themes of *Voluntary Servitude* are self-empowerment and self-sufficiency.

"One thing I hope my brothers and sisters get out of the book is that we have to control our own destiny," Robinson stated in an interview with *The Recorder*. "Sure, there's still racism and systematic prejudice, but by us already knowing that, what is the next step? Do we continue to say we can't get ahead as long as people like George W. Bush is in office? If that's your take on it you're always going to stay down because you're giving him the authority to keep you down. Well, I propose that we say in 2004, that 'he or anyone else won't have the power to keep me down. I'm going to empower myself.'"

Robinson continued, "When we give the authority to white racists to control our view of life or say it's their fault we can't get ahead or get jobs, what we're saying is that we can't live the appropriate life without them or their goodwill, and that's the mentality of a slave. Sure we have problems, but we can't rely on the so-called establishment to fix them. You have to fix your own problems and give the authority to yourself to control you. It may be a little harder and take a little longer, but it will deliver lasting

change."

Robinson uses Black-on-Black crime as a major example of how many African Americans push for acquiescence from racist whites instead of addressing the disunity among their own people.

"Our so-called community leaders will preach, picket, and protest the very moment a white cop shoots and kills a Black suspect," Robinson wrote. "But when a Black youth murders another Black youth daily in America's urban jungles, these city slick leaders are silent."

Another topic involves the education of African-American youth.

"We get mad at public schools and lambaste them for not teaching enough Black history, when we as parents should be taking the initiative to teach it at home," Robinson stated.

Throughout the book, Robinson urges African Americans not to separate themselves from whites, but to simply rise up and implement some of the social reconstruction techniques that only they can put in place for themselves.

Some of these improvements include rebuilding Black families (or slowing the trend of absentee fathers), fighting against negative or stereotypical images of Blacks in mass media, getting Black churches more involved in community building and viewing current political events with a more critical and informed eye. Health care and the state of Historically Black Colleges and Universities are also addressed.

Robinson gives immense credit to single mothers and unsung community volunteers who "work in the trenches" with troubled citizens everyday.

At 113 pages *Voluntary Servitude*

is relatively limited, and is smaller than even today's typical suspense or romance novel. All the information was crammed in, Robinson said, to appeal to those who are turned off by deep, dictionary-sized books.

"In order for African Americans to rise up and take their true place in American society, we must first understand the importance of our education, our spiritual status, our family life, our economic empowerment, and our role in the political system," Robinson wrote.

"We must grasp the concept that these are the areas in which we are weak in. And once we see improvement in these areas, then and only then, will we be able to re-establish ourselves back into the true spirit of our great ancestral heritage and ride the modern Underground Railroad to freedom."

Robinson has a weekly column that appears in *The Indianapolis Recorder* entitled *Education Does Matter*, and he's also a columnist for *Indianapolis Eye* Newsweekly magazine. He has a criminal justice degree with a minor in sociology from Central Missouri State University and an education degree from Indiana University, Bloomington.

Robinson's three previous releases were *The Black Business Directory of Indianapolis*, *The Seven Steps to Student Success*, and *Black Dreams Do Come True*, which featured U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell. A father of two, he is currently working on *Speak to the People: A Conversation in Black Thought*.

Voluntary Servitude: Breaking the Chains of Mental and Psychological Slavery can be purchased at X-Pression Bookstore.

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THE BUS

► Continued from Page 1

cities, but has to do so with far fewer buses and the lowest budget of the group.

Midwest public transportation experts say former Mayor Stephen Goldsmith's 1990's overtures towards privatizing mass transit crippled IndyGo, leaving a bare-bones system that isn't considered a viable transportation option by most Indianapolis residents.

IndyGo President and CEO Gilbert Holmes, who took over the job last year said, "The kind of minimalist system we have had has made it unattractive to nearly everyone but those who cannot drive and thus have no alternative."

A 2001 IndyGo survey showed that 80 percent of its riders have household incomes of less than

\$25,000, and 77 percent of the system's riders do not have a car available to them.

Holmes and IndyGo board president Gregory Fehribach can rattle off an extensive list of services they would like to offer, but can't because the money simply isn't there: a downtown-to-airport shuttle, more park-and-ride and express services, and, most importantly, greater frequency and later pick-ups on its most used routes.

Ronald Barnes, CEO of the Central Ohio Transit Authority in Columbus, was surprised to learn that IndyGo's most frequent bus routes have a 30-minute gap between buses arriving at stops. In contrast, Columbus has 13 routes that run at frequencies of every 5-10 minutes during peak

time. "It's very hard to get dedicated riders with 30 minute frequency," Barnes says. "Busy people can't afford to miss a bus and lose a half-hour out of their work day. You also need later hours these days; people don't always get off at 5 p.m. anymore. But it takes funds to provide that type of service."

It will ultimately be up to legislators and [local government] to decide where more public transit dollars will come from, but IndyGo officials insist the funds need to be found somewhere. "There is precedent out there," says IndyGo's Holmes. "We can look to the examples of other communities who decided they want to have good public transit, then sucked it up and funded it."

SCHOOL 65

► Continued from Page 1

moved to their new location, there wasn't a question whether they should continue. The event has gotten bigger every year, with 145 kids this year, said Taylor.

"It makes you feel good when you see the expressions on their faces when they open their gifts," said Kimberly Hunt, a machine operator at PepsiCo, who has participated the past two years.

The employees get almost as excited as the students do about giving the children something to look forward to.

"It feels real good," said Wesley Cobb, forklift operator for PepsiCo. "It's fun to see the glow in their eyes when they open the gift. If more people could see how they react, I know they would want to give also."

PepsiCo sponsored the meal,

which included turkey, green beans, mashed potatoes with gravy, macaroni and cheese and an assortment of holiday cookies.

The students also treated employees in attendance by singing Christmas carols like "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and "Jolly Old St. Nicholas." In addition, each student made an ornament for his or her gift-giver.

BRIEFS

► Continued from Page 1

\$384,241 grant to Lawrence Township Fire Department

Congresswoman Julia Carson has announced that Indianapolis' Lawrence Township Fire Department is to receive a federal grant through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in the amount of \$384,241 for fire operations and firefighter safety.

The award is made under the provisions of the 2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant. The program awards one-year grants directly to local fire departments, enhancing their abilities to respond to fire and fire-related hazards in their communities.

MAYOR PETERSON ELECTED TO NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES BOARD

Mayor Bart Peterson was elected to the board of directors of the National League of Cities (NLC) at the recent NLC Congress of Cities in Nashville, Tenn.

NLC is the oldest and largest national organization representing municipal governments throughout the United States and serves as a resource and advocate for 18,000 U.S. cities. The board is the NLC's governing body.

Homeless shelter receives Lilly funds

Dayspring Center Inc. announced the award of a \$100,000 grant from Lilly Endowment. The award is for transitional support and will assist the agency with the operations of its family emergency homeless shelter and its transitional housing complex.

The award comes at a critical time for the agency. On Dec. 9, 2002, the agency reopened after a two-month closure. During the time, programs were cut and funds were raised so that the agency could continue to serve the homeless families with children that are its client base.

TORRENCE

► Continued from Page 1

mechanics, and my ordained minister's license."

But Torrence warns that with all his skills and training, he cannot land a job, or assistance to help him live. "I went to a church to get help, and was told if I had a job, then they would help me," he commented. "But if no one will hire me, what can I do to survive?"

He emphatically denies that he is doing anything illegal, including using or selling drugs. "I have learned my lesson, being a former gang-banger, and doing everything that was bad," said Torrence. "But now I am desper-

ately trying to turn my life around, and make something of myself."

The straight-talking Torrence has applied at United Parcel Service (UPS), Mayflower Transit Co., and numerous other businesses, but was turned down, because of his record. Further, he sought assistance from a township trustee and other government agencies, which offer no assistance to former felons with drug cases.

He was fired from Indianapolis Fruit, because of time off to spend with his adopted father, who is dying of cancer. "They told me that it had to be me in the

hospital for my job not to be affected," Torrence said. He now lives with his grandmother, whom he loves and appreciates very much. "She is very good to me, and I really love what she has done for me," he continued.

Torrence's qualifications include, but are not limited to pouring cement, doing concrete and brick work, doing agricultural work, lawn care and limited landscaping.

Anyone needing help in these areas, please contact Torrence at (317) 283-3034.

Homeless initiative receives national recognition

Special to The Recorder

The Action Coalition to Ensure Stability, an Indianapolis program that coordinates services for Marion County adults who are homeless or at risk of homelessness who experience mental illness and substance abuse issues, was selected as one of six sites across the country for the 2003 Center for Mental Health Services Homeless Programs Branch Exemplary Programs.

ACES accepted the award during the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration sponsored conference "Hope: The Key to Ending Homelessness for People with Mental Illnesses

and/or Substance Use Disorders" in Phoenix recently.

ACES was selected to receive the award based on its contributions to the community, commitment to serving those in need, collaborations with other community service providers, consumer involvement, consumer outcomes and culturally sensitive services.

"This award is a tribute to the entire community for the collaborative efforts in serving those most in need," said ACES Director Brent Matthews. "Together, we are demonstrating that through collaborations that promote permanent supported housing, we can end homelessness and promote that there is help and hope for recovery."

The ACES Project is a community collaboration with Midtown Community Mental Health Center, a division of Wishard Health Services and Health & Hospital Corp. of Marion County, and the city of Indianapolis' Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention and many more agencies.

ACES is made possible through the funding and efforts of Lilly Endowment, United Way of Central Indiana, Choices Inc., CHIP and the ACES Achievers Council.

For more information about ACES, or any of the Choices programs, call (317) 726-2121 or visit www.kidwrap.org.

Merry Christmas



Louise Stamps

September 5, 1923 -- December 27, 2002

*Mother,
this is the time of year
I miss you most, for it was you
who put the merry in all my Christmases.*

*Trimming the tree, wrapping the presents,
and leaving cookies for Santa.*

*Most of all, it was you who taught us
the true meaning of Christmas: faith, charity and love.*

Merry Christmas, Mother...

Love, Janet

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African-American ISTEP scores improve again, especially in math

By AMOS BROWN III
Recorder Correspondent

ISTEP scores for African-American students improved for the second straight year statewide and the city and suburbs of Indianapolis, according to an Indianapolis Recorder analysis.

Statewide, 44 percent of African-Americans passed the ISTEP language arts section, while 43 percent passed the mathematics section. That's an increase of 1 percentage point in language arts and a strong 5 percentage point jump in math from last year's ISTEP results.

For all students statewide, 69 percent passed the language arts and 70 percent passed the math sections, an increase of 1 percentage point in language arts and 3 percentage points in math from 2002.

For the past two years, ISTEP, (Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress) tested Hoosiers in the third, sixth, eighth and 10th grades based on Indiana's new, tougher academic

standards. ISTEP tests are one measurement to document student academic performance under the federal government's No Child Left Behind law.

The Recorder analyzed ISTEP results for African-American students statewide and in Indianapolis city/county and suburban school districts with an African-American enrollment of at least 300. The Recorder's analysis combined the total number of third, sixth, eighth and 10th graders who took and passed the test and reported the percentage that passed.

Overall and in most school districts examined, African-American students improved markedly in mathematics. The strongest gains in math were made in the Pike Township Schools which saw a 10 percentage point increase in the number of African-Americans passing the ISTEP math sections. Other school districts saw similar gains.

The percentage of Black students who passed math jumped 6 percentage points in the Indian-

apolis Public Schools, Warren Township, Wayne Township and Hamilton Southeastern school districts.

Two school districts saw big gains among African-Americans in language arts. The percentage of Blacks passing language arts increased seven points in Hamilton Southeastern and five points in Pike Township.

Several districts saw declines in the percentage of Black students passing ISTEP. Surprisingly, the biggest declines occurring in the Carmel-Clay school district where 65 percent of Black students passed ISTEP math and language arts, compared with 75 percent a year ago.

Other districts where the percentage of Blacks who passed declined in math were Decatur Township and Speedway schools (down two points); and Franklin Township (down one point).

In language arts, Decatur Township's Black ISTEP scores fell 5 percentage points, in Speedway the decline was 4 points and a 1 point drop in Perry

Township.

Overall, in Pike Township, 61 percent of Blacks passed language arts and 58 percent passed math. Washington Township had the highest performance of the township schools with 62 percent of their Black students passing language arts and 58 percent passing math.

African-American students in the Indianapolis Public Schools continued to improve their ISTEP scores as 41 percent passed language arts, up 3 points and 40

percent passing math, up 6 points.

African-American students in the Hamilton Southeastern district in the Fishers area of Hamilton County scored the best with 75 percent passing language arts and 72 percent passing math.

The poorest performance by African-American students in an Indianapolis area school district occurred in Anderson where a third (33 percent) of Blacks passed language arts and 29 percent passed math. Anderson's Black students' ISTEP scores are

far lower than IPS' and for Blacks statewide.

The accompanying chart shows the ISTEP passing rates for language arts and math for African-Americans in statewide and the 13 Indianapolis area school corporations surveyed by The Recorder.

Detailed data on ISTEP scores, including scores for individual schools, is available at the Indiana Department of Education's Web site: <http://doe.state.in.us/istep/2003/welcome.html>.

2003-04 ISTEP-PLUS RESULTS - Districts of 300+ Black Students

Chart Compilation ©2003 Indianapolis Recorder

DISTRICT	%PASSING 2003-04			%PASSING 2002-03
	LANG	MATH	LANG	
Statewide	44	43	42	38
IPS	41	40	38	34
Decatur Twp.	41	43	46	45
Franklin Twp.	40	34	39	35
Lawrence Twp.	54	50	53	46
Perry Twp.	36	32	37	30
Pike Twp.	61	58	56	48
Warren Twp.	51	51	48	45
Washington Twp.	62	58	62	53
Wayne Twp.	51	55	48	49
Speedway	42	43	46	45
Carmel	65	65	75	75
Hamilton SE	75	72	68	66
Anderson Comm	33	29	31	26

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1,551 Blacks attend area private schools; down 6.1 percent in year

By AMOS BROWN III
Recorder Correspondent

African-American enrollment in private and parochial schools in the Indianapolis and surrounding suburbs is declining, according to an analysis of enrollment data by The Indianapolis Recorder. This school year, 1,551 African-Americans are enrolled in private and parochial schools in Indianapolis and the surrounding suburbs, a decline of 101 students or 6.1 percent in one school year.

For years, private schools weren't required to submit their enrollment data by race. But accreditation requirements by the Indiana Department of Education and accountability provisions of the federal No Child Left Behind law now requires private and religious schools to provide the data.

Sixty-five private and parochial schools in Indianapolis/Marion County and the seven surrounding suburban counties provided racial enrollment data to the state. Those schools had a total enrollment of 21,316 with African-Americans comprising 1,551 or 7.3 percent and Hispanics comprising 360 or 1.7 percent.

(There are a number of private and religious schools that don't submit enrollment data by race, so this isn't the definitive picture of racial enrollment in the area's private schools.)

Nearly seven-in-10 Blacks (68.4 percent) attending area private/parochial schools are enrolled in Catholic schools. Black Catholic school enrollment is 1,061 or 7.9 percent of the total Catholic school enrollment of 13,477. Black enrollment in Indianapolis area Catholic schools fell 133 or 11.1 percent in the past year. Since the 1999/2000 school year, African-American enrollment in area Catholic schools has declined a stunning 41.8 percent or 761 students.

Some observers expected that Indianapolis' growing Hispanic population would be reflected in rising enrollments in private/parochial schools, but The Recorder's analysis found differently.

For the third straight year, Hispanic enrollment has dropped in area private and parochial schools. In the 2001/02 school year, 453 Hispanics attended area private schools. That number fell to 394 last school year and to 360 this year. Over the past three years, in a period of Hispanic population growth, Hispanic private school enrollment dropped 20.5 percent.

Of the 65 private schools in Indianapolis providing racial enrollment data, six are majority African-American schools. The Black enrollment of those schools encompass 47.8 percent of all African-Americans private school enrollment.

The schools and their percent of African-American enrollment are:

- Mt. Carmel Christian Academy, 98.6 percent Black.
- St. Andrew/St. Rita Catholic School, 98 percent Black.
- Holy Angels Catholic School, 96.2 percent Black.
- Jewel Christian Academy, 95.9 percent Black.
- LPP & Arlington Elementary School One, 79.6 percent Black.
- St. Joan of Arc Catholic School, 70.7 percent Black.
- Seven schools have enrollments that are at least 10 percent African-American. They are:
- North Park Academy, 35.3 percent.
- St. Michael the Archangel Catholic School, 28.2 percent.
- All Saints Catholic School, 26.2 percent.
- LPP & Arlington Elementary School Two, 26.7 percent.
- St. Gabriel Catholic School, 14 percent.
- St. Lawrence Catholic School, 12.8 percent.
- St. Monica Catholic School, 10.9 percent.

The private schools with the largest highest percentage of Hispanic students enrolled are: St. Philip Neri Catholic School 39.7 percent and All Saints Catholic School 22.1 percent.

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what of the night?"

Isaiah 21:11

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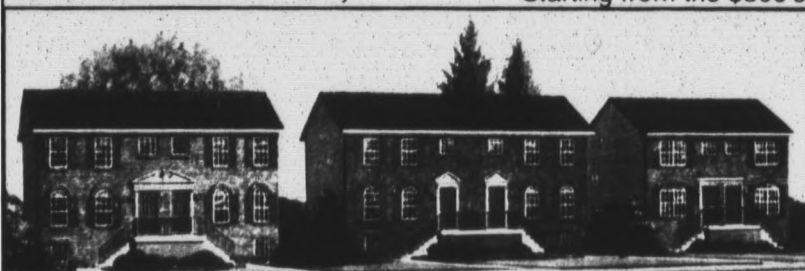
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EDUCATION DOES MATTER

The War at Home

By LEROY ROBINSON



As the New Year approaches, my thoughts are of the future and of what's to come. The winter months, the springtime, and then the warm summer fun.

The terrorist, the flu season, and celebrity gossip fills the nightly news.

Many children being abused, no food, no clothing, even some without any shoes.

Our soldiers over seas, fighting for our freedom and they're fighting to stay alive.

Bring our troops home Mr. President, their families need them, will any of them survive?

The Patriot Act, civil liberties threatened, all unraveling the U.S. Bill of Rights.

Secret laws being passed, freedoms being taken away, while citizens sleep through evening nights.

Will these days get better, can they possibly get any worse?

Abuse...death...poverty...

crime...drugs...divorce, is this an American curse?

Dollars in the billions being used to rebuild a foreign land.

The leadership has been defeated, chaos and disorder, their future is now in our hand.

Police brutality, racism, prejudice, and discrimination against the gays.

Those who face these pains, suffer silently...short nights, long, long days.

What is the future of a country, which doesn't place its citizens first?

Fairness, equality, honesty, integrity, justice, and responsibility is what the people thirst.

Democrats fighting with Republicans over the simplest things.

Crimes against our innocent children, who cares what songs he sings.

The war on drugs, the war on poverty, what about our children's education.

We have the schools, we have the teachers...we need the parent's participation.

HIV, AIDS, diabetes, and any of the forms of cancer.

We have the worlds finest schools, teachers, and research; why can't we find an answer?

Marriage, family, our time together; is now a thing of the past. If we don't keep this union together, the Union will never last.

Black on Black crime, fatherless homes, the pain is all the same.

The government, the system, a conspiracy, who else are we going to blame?

The Power of One can make a difference; in this world we are not alone.

Looking at the past, the present, and the future, we have a war at home.

Author of newly released book, entitled Voluntary Servitude: Breaking the Chains: Mental and Psychological Slavery. For speaking engagements or education workshops, contact me at: educationdoesmatter@hotmail.com or write me at: 9701 E. 63rd St., Indianapolis, IN. 46236. My contact number is (317) 502-0272.

EDUCATOR OF THE WEEK

Name:
Quintella J. Wright

Hometown:
Indianapolis

College(s) attended:
Bishop College (Dallas, Texas), Indiana University, Butler University.

Year(s) of graduation:
1973, 1978, 1990

Began teaching in:
1973

Current school:
Broad Ripple High School

How long:
2 1/2 years

Position:
Dean of students

Grade levels in school:
9th - 12th



Why do you have the desire to educate?

As a dean, I meet with students who are referred to the office, usually for disciplinary reasons. During the conference time, students' points of view are heard and they are counseled on student behavior. My goal is to assist students in making wise decisions that will affect better outcomes.

What has been the most rewarding thing you have done as an educator?

Under my leadership as principal of Thomas Edison Middle School, the school was removed from "probation" status in less than

a year. I also helped to turn around another "at-risk/troubled school."

What has been the most challenging aspect of education?

It is very challenging to get others to embrace the "mission" by thinking "outside the box." Most people find it difficult to change what they've always done.

In the future, what changes would you like to see in schools?

If I had three wishes, they would be:

(1) Return instructional coordinators back to the original status of working directly with teachers.

(2) Require high and middle schools to have alternative schools within the school.

(3) Require all teachers to attend multi-cultural in-service sessions to better understand inner-city students.

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*To my family,
Smoking is taking years off my life. Yeah I should be spending with you. I'm sorry. My love for you will not go with me, it will grow inside you all.*

*To my children,
I don't want you to be sad! Remember me, and forgive me for leaving you so soon. When it's over, mom will just be sleeping.*

*To the tobacco companies,
My name is Leonora. I have emphysema from smoking. You stole my dignity. You killed the spirit of a beautiful young woman. And the worst is yet to come. For that, you should be sorry.*



Legacy

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Vincent Ash going to Washington

Special to The Recorder

Vincent Ash Jr., a seventh-grade student at Calvary Christian School, has been accepted into the People to People World Leadership Forum. Ash will join a select group of other outstanding sixth, seventh and eighth-grade students in Washington, D.C., on March 15-21.

As a delegate, Ash will take part in daily small-group discussions, activities to build knowledge, self-confidence, communication skills and leadership abilities. He will enter America's centers of justice, legislation and history to witness how successful leaders develop strategies and foster change.

Ash will also earn high school credit while studying leadership and exploring some of the nation's most prominent monuments and institutions.

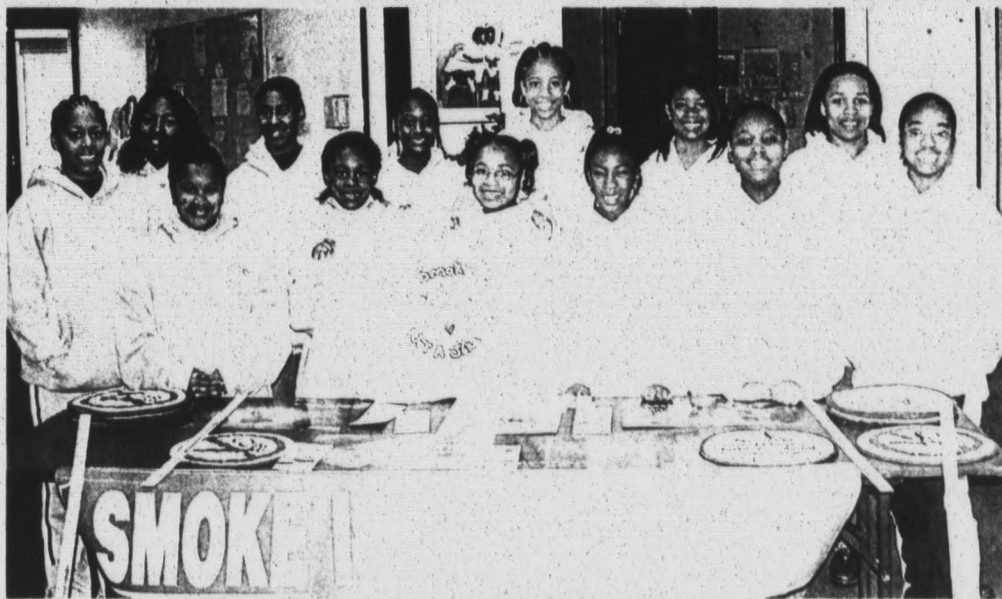
"This is a great experience for

me," said Ash.

The People to People World Leadership Forum helps to prepare promising young people for opportunities and responsibilities in dealing with the nation. Debbie Goddard of Calvary Christian School nominated Ash for his outstanding scholastic merit, civic involvement and leadership potential.

His participation will rank him among the elite in academic and career pursuits. Ash is a member of Agape Apostolic Faith Assembly where he sings in the choir and serves on the usher board.

Financial contributions to help support Vincent's trip for housing, meals, materials, supervisory personnel, activity transportation and other expenses can be mailed to 2301 Riverside Drive, Indianapolis, Ind., 46208. You can also call (317) 635-4061.



Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Girls Rites of Passage

HAPPY NEW YEAR from Mt. Carmel Baptist Church Youth Ministry, Dr. Theron D. William, I, Pastor
SMOKE IS NOT A JOKE SO STOP SMOKING, SECOND HAND SMOKE KILLS

The youth of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church submitted a grant to Youth as Resources and received a grant to educate youth afterschool programs about the dangers of cigarette smoking.

The Smoke Is Not A Joke project traveled to afterschool programs providing students with video and discussion presentations, bags of goodies about the harm of smoke and receiving written commitments from students not to smoke and spread the word to friends and relatives not to smoke.

Our Grant writing team and active project participants consist of the following: Brittany Akers, Brittany Bartlett, Jasmine Bartlett, Whitney Bowie, Monique Cheatham, Demario Cheatham, Kyrstal Cheatham, Tanessa Dumes, Jasmine Echols, Jasmine Foster, Brian Hatchett, Brianna Jones, Ross Loyal, Alexis Miller, Moriah Hobbitt, Carlyn McGinty, Adrienne McLean, Eboni Odhiambo, Kristen Patterson, Vycoria Rose, Alexis Thompson, Taylor Williams, Theron Williams, II, and Kyle Wimberly. The adult advisors are Robyn Akers, Tausha Thompson and Kathy Williams, (First Lady).

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL!!!

The Recorder JAWS section (Journalism and Writing Seminars) is a nonprofit instructional program established through The Recorder Charities to provide students of color (interns) hands on training and exposure to the field of journalism. The goal is to encourage participants to pursue careers in journalism.

America responds to the AIDS crisis

By Tasasha Henderson
Perry Meridian High School
Recorder Intern



According to the World Health Organization and the Joint United Nations

program on HIV/AIDS, there were 37 million adults and 2.5 million children living with AIDS at the end of 2003.

Africa has been greatly affected by the AIDS crisis. There are also 3.2 million children under the age of 15 in sub-Saharan Africa who are infected. Across the countries of sub-Saharan Africa 2.2 million died of AIDS in 2001.

What is HIV/AIDS? Human Immuno-deficiency Virus, or what is commonly called HIV, is the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome or what is commonly called AIDS. Once someone gets infected with HIV, the body

will try to fight the infection. Being HIV-positive is not the same as having AIDS. Many people are HIV-positive but don't get sick for many years.

The people of Africa don't have access or money to get the Antiretroviral drugs, the main type of treatment for AIDS, that they desperately need. There are measures that the medical world has been making to provide these drugs to the infected people. Pharmaceutical companies are reducing the cost of their drugs due to the constant pressure by AIDS organizations and activists.

When asked do you think the United States should be involved in fighting AIDS in Africa or should it concentrate on the domestic AIDS crisis, Dinah Allen, a senior at Ben Davis High School, says "It should go both ways since we are the country with the most resources. The United States should lend a helping hand to Africa but focus more on America."

Miseducation and ignorance are major factors that need to be overcome to fight the AIDS epidemic in Africa. A lot of the African people know there is a disease called AIDS for which there is no cure, but they do not know how it is transmitted. They also deny that the risk applies to them, even though casual, premarital, and coercive sex is common in sub-Saharan Africa. According to national research, political and social problems force large numbers of refugees and women who can't support themselves to turn to prostitution. To fight this problem the global community needs to take action to educate and inform the African people.

The U.S. State Department reports that the U.S. will almost triple its annual assistance to fighting HIV/AIDS internationally. Over five years, the U.S. will spend \$15 billion to fight the AIDS epidemic. The plan is to prevent 7 million new HIV infections, including HIV transmission between mothers and newborns, treat 2 million people living with HIV/AIDS with effective medicines, including anti-retroviral and antibiotics, and care for 10 million HIV-infected individuals and AIDS orphans

When asked if she thinks the United States is doing enough to help the victims of AIDS in Africa, Alyse Robinson, a sophomore at Broad Ripple High School, replied, No I do not. I don't feel that the United States is doing enough, and I don't think that Africa is doing their part either. I believe the concert held in Africa with Beyonce was a good idea. Having people educate the Africans on why contraception is needed is a good idea so they will know how to prevent themselves from getting AIDS.

Lisa Wiggins, mother of two, said, The United States should help fight the AIDS epidemic in Africa to keep the virus from spreading even more.

Lawrence Lewis, a Marion County resident is also concerned about the AIDS epidemic in Africa. He said The United States should help to fight AIDS in Africa because the Africans are human beings like everyone else and should be helped.

The AIDS epidemic in Africa is a world-wide problem that needs all the support and resources that can be provided. If you would like to donate to an AIDS organization visit www.aidsaction.org.



Facilitators Shannon Williams (far left) and Tysha Hardy-Sellers (far right) pose with students during a special holiday party recognizing the students' tremendous work ethics during the fall portion of JAWS.

Kwanzaa celebration emphasizes African culture

By Chris Rogers
Lawrence Central High School
Recorder Intern



Merry Christmas!
Happy Hanukkah!
And have a great...
Kwanzaa?
Not many people

know too much about Kwanzaa. It is an African-based celebration that celebrates family, community and culture. It begins December 26th and ends January 1st. This holiday consists of gifts and colors and symbols that represent the values of the African heritage.

Created in 1966, by Dr. Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa is a very important holiday that teaches younger generations about their past and culture. Karenga stated, The message and meaning of Kwanzaa: bringing good into the world.

The name Kwanzaa comes from "matunda ya kwanza," a phrase in Swahili that means "first fruits." The

celebration of the first fruits goes all the way back to ancient Egypt and the Zulu. The African "first fruit" celebrations were set in five parts: ingathering, reverence, commemoration, recommitment, and celebration.

So Kwanzaa is broken down to a time to gather with others, honor and give thanks to your creator. It is a time to look back on your mistakes and what they have

taught you, a time to get in touch with your African roots, and a time to celebrate all that is good in your life and that which you are thankful.

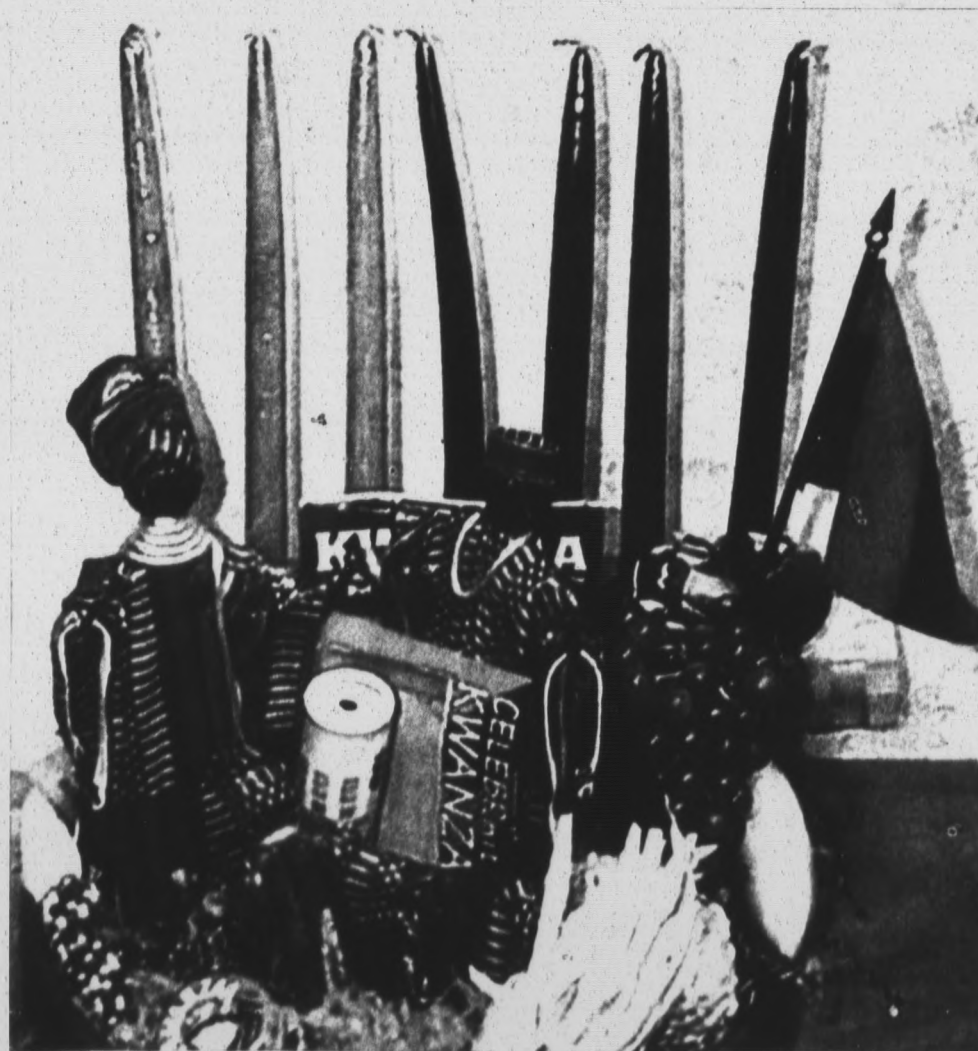
You can't understand Kwanzaa without knowing the symbols of Kwanzaa. The key symbols of Kwanzaa are Kikombe cha Umoja (Unity Cup) which is symbolic to the principles and to the unity of family and people. Zawadi (The Gifts) symbolizes the work of your parents and their commitments to you. Muhindi (The Corn) represents the children of the future, Mazao (The Crops) represents our rewards and the products of our labor, and Mkeka (The Mat) symbolizes our history and the foundation on which we build on.

Also, of the key symbols of Kwanzaa, there is the Kinara and the Mishimaa Saba (Candle holder and The Seven Candles). The Kinara symbolizes our roots from which we've come. The Seven Candles, or Mishimaa Saba, represents the Nguzo Saba, or the Seven principles, and the values that people

should live by all the time. The Seven Principles are Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-Determination), Ujima (Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity), and Imani (Faith).

Greg Smith, a member at the St. Rita Catholic Church, has celebrated Kwanzaa for more than 10 years. He said that Kwanzaa is a great experience to the American community that brings congregation a lot closer to the community. It brings a blackness to Christmas. When asked to summarize Kwanzaa in a few words, he said heritage, spirit, and community.

Kwanzaa is a celebration of all things that brought, are bringing, or will bring you happiness. It celebrates family and good values. Kwanzaa is a great holiday for those who are interested in learning more of the African culture and heritage and those who are truly proud of who they are and where they come from.



Ben Davis students brighten the holidays by being secret Santas

By Dinah Allen
Ben Davis High School
Recorder Intern



What if you were a child and knew that your parent could not afford to give you the best Christmas?

You would probably be expecting the bottom of the Christmastree to be bare and boring. But to your surprise you wake up and there are bundles of gifts under the tree due to a secret Santa.

Over this Christmas season many organizations took donations to help families that are having hard times because of a death in the family, or a parent is not able to provide for their children or for other reasons.

Many teachers and students from Ben Davis High School became secret Santas this year. Teachers collected donations for two weeks in order to provide gifts for their sponsored child. After the money was collected, students went shopping on their own time and purchased gifts that were on their child's wish list.

Junior Doneisha Sanders was given money to go shopping with the money classes collected. "It makes me feel good to know that

I'm part of someone's life by helping someone who's less fortunate to have a good Christmas," said Sanders.

Ben Davis students made Christmas possible for some children in the Wayne Township District. More than 98 individuals were supposed to be sponsored and nearly 40 children were not matched up with a secret Santa. That's when the BD Student Council stepped to the plate and turned everything around.

Once the students found out about the shortage of sponsors, students set out and told the student body by word of mouth about the problem.

"When we were told that over 30 children weren't sponsored, I knew we had to

do something as leaders to make sure that these children would have the best Christmas possible," said senior Shanice Robinson.

Telling the students about unsponsored children, the Student Council also collected loose change from people during lunch. Students went from table to table with red buckets in their hands asking students to donate to the cause.

"Lunch time was the best time to collect spare change and ask for donations. It felt good to help a lot kids and people. I think that it was just a blessing to help out," said Student Council member, senior Roniah Walker.

With the collection, Student Council was able to gather enough change to sponsor the remaining

children.

Student Council wasn't the only organization in the school to make Christmas possible. The publication staff also contributed to the cause.

The yearbook, CD-ROM yearbook, and newspaper staff collected \$200 for a teen-age boy and little girl. Staff members felt the need to help the children, therefore they put forth their best effort to make this a wonderful Christmas.

"It was a very touching and heart warming experience to make a child's Christmas memorable. My family and I aren't really into gift exchanging, so it felt really good to provide money and present gifts to them," said Robinson, a staff member of the yearbook, Keyhole.



Finals are over — right?

By Garrett Gammons
Cardinal Ritter High School
Recorder Intern



As every high school student in America takes off for the holiday break they look forward to a relaxing

two weeks. Two weeks filled with hanging out with friends, staying up late, and not having to deal with homework.

There is one thing that separates some schools from others — finals. Some schools have decided to give finals after the break to give students time to study. But are students studying? Some students argue that when they are on break they are less likely to study because of the holiday distractions.

All public schools are required to take their finals after the break. Matthew O'Bannon, a junior at Arsenal Technical High School said that it was kind of bitter sweet.

"It's good because it gives students time to study, but it's difficult because it's hard to study during a time that's given for a break," he said. "If we had finals before the break they would be out of the way and we could really enjoy the break, that's how college is."

Some students agree that finals should be after the

break, others think they should be before the break. Alicia Edwards, a senior at Northwest High School, believes in finals before the break. "You could forget everything you learned during the year," Edwards exclaimed. "Having finals before the break simply get them out of the way." When asked about the advantages of having finals before the break she said the only advantage would be the study time.

Other students think that the break provides time that is well needed to study. Estella Motely, a sophomore at Scecina High School, said that the holiday isn't a distraction. "Even though we had finals before the break, I wish we would have had them after."

"With all the study guides and the extra homework, the break gives you more time to prepare for finals."

Jonathan Woods, a sophomore at Lawrence Central High School, wouldn't have it any other way. "You get an extra two week period to study," says Woods. "It really depends on the type of person you are and how dedicated you are to your education."

Different students have different ways of dealing with their studies. Whether it's taking finals before or after Christmas break, all that matters is succeeding in academics and doing your best.

Thoughts for teens during the holiday season

By TaLette Jones
Lawrence Central High School
Recorder Intern



To some, Christmas is all about getting up at the crack of dawn to open up a paper wrapped gift box.

Although to others, Christmas is a little more of sitting by a fire cuddling with the ones they love most. So, is Christmas really about the boxes or the family?

The true meaning of Christmas is biblical. It is the time to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Christmas is also the time when the three wise men brought their gifts to rejoice and give their praise to Mary and her new miracle.

Since Jesus went through the religious land of Bethlehem blessing all of the townsmen, maybe it's in our hands to bless our worldly family with love. Although this thought of Christmas remains in some of America's hearts, others just seem to be here to receive gifts.

"I think it is about the birth of Jesus. Here on Earth, I like to spend time with family. I don't like to share gifts, because they're too expensive," said Ericka Wheeler, staff writer for The Indianapolis Recorder.

Some people think that the government plays a major role in the distribution of financial debt around or after Christmas time. "The government likes to get money off of holidays, which is why they have them in the year," Wheeler said.

Today, there's a wide selection of gifts for teens to choose from. So, do we choose from them or do we just accept the idea that someone actually thought of us?

"I think Christmas is about being with your family and having a good time. Everybody's trying to make Christmas superficial and make it materialistic. That's not what Christmas is about. I didn't really ask for anything for Christmas," said Leah Graves. She is a freshman at Lawrence Central High School.

There's many ways to celebrate Christmas besides the gifts and being with family. Some of today's teens choose to spend Christmas with different parties or just hanging out and enjoying life.

"As you get older, you start to mature and realize that Christmas is more for the younger kids. It's all about being with family and loved ones," Graves said. So is Christmas about opening those stuffed boxes, or is Christmas about celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ by sharing love? Well, to some teens, as well as adults, Christmas is from the heart.

THIS YEAR I RESOLVE TO:

Maintain your New Year's resolutions

By Alicia Renee Edwards
Northwest High School
Recorder Intern



5, 4, 3, 2, 1 - Happy New Year. OK the party is over. How many times have you said this

year will be different? Do you keep the promises you make for the New Year? I promise I'll lose at least 50 pounds, or I promise to change my attitude this year.

When it all comes down to it those promises are still promises. You may start out on the right foot, but somehow and some way you get off-track. If you find it hard to stay committed to your New Year's resolutions here are three simple tips that can help you towards your success.

(1) Obtain a realistic goal. Sure we would all love to be rich, but if you're just now starting to save you will not become a billionaire overnight. Making an unrealistic resolution is one of the many reasons why people don't live up to their resolutions, and get off track. In order to fulfill your New Year's resolutions they must first be obtainable.

Everyone has their own New Year's resolutions and different ways to accomplish them. Susan Land is a sophomore at Purdue University. Her New Year's resolution is to improve her grades in college. She feels that she can succeed if she gets organized, studies more, stays focused on her goal, and asks for help when she needs it.

Dinah Allen, a senior at Ben Davis High School, also wants to get organized in her schoolwork, and prepare more for college and scholarships. Dinah said, "I need to make it a priority. I think I'll put the important things on my calendar to help me get organized."

(2) Commit yourself. Yes we are all very busy people, but you can't keep putting things off or they

will never get accomplished. It is very easy to lose focus on your goal, but you have to make it a priority. Take a few minutes out of your day, and work towards your goal. If need be, take time to meditate or even pray over it.

Valjin Harvell, an alumnus of Martin University, doesn't have a New Year's resolution because she never keeps them. She states, "I want to do it, but I allow myself to get distracted from reaching my goal." Although she does not have a New Year's resolution her goal is to finish graduate school. In order to accomplish her goal in finishing graduate school she says, "I have to make up my mind and do it. I have to make it a priority."

(3) Think positive. Nothing is going to be accomplished with a negative attitude. It only sets you back to believe that you can't accomplish your goal. If one day you mess up on your resolution it is OK. It is not the end of the world. Just relax, take a deep breath and start over - but this time with a better attitude. There is no reason to think negatively. After all you made it through another year.

As the New Year is approaching and resolutions are coming about. It is time for a new year that brings about new changes. If you make a resolution and you feel tempted to abandon it think about those less fortunate than you that would love to be in your position.

Pamela Edwards, a service representative for Social Security, wants peace in the world, and to do her part to contribute to it. She also wants to improve her relationship with the Lord. She plans on accomplishing this goal by reading her Bible more often, and fully committing herself to the Lord.

Edwards said, "We are all brothers and sisters in Christ. It's time we act like it. I have to fully commit myself because there are so many negative things trying to keep you from maintaining your goal."

EDITORIAL

Material aspects of Christmas

By SHANNON WILLIAMS
Recorder editor



OK, I'll admit it, I was one the thousands of last minute shoppers who waited until just a few days before Christmas to join the masses at the malls looking for just the right gift for everyone on my list.

I really can't pinpoint why I waited so long to do my Christmas shopping. It probably had a lot to do with the fact that my mom is no longer here and the holidays just don't seem the same. But beyond that, I think I grew frustrated with what Christmas has become to so many people.

It seems as if people are forgetting the true meaning of Christmas and concentrating more on the material aspect of it.

Over the weekend, I attended a holiday party. The host of this event asked that I videotape the guests and ask them anything I wanted to about Christmas or the holidays in general. Asking people questions is how I earn my living, so of course I agreed.

As I thought of exactly what I wanted to ask those in attendance, I remembered a repeat conversation that I have had with various individuals over the last couple of months. Basically we discussed how individuals are becoming so driven by the whole concept of receiving gifts for Christmas. With that in mind, I decided to ask the guests what Christmas meant to them. I knew that their responses would be the topic for my editorial, so as I questioned one person after another, I kept a mental checklist of how they replied.

Sadly the thing most of them said was that Christmas was a time to exchange gifts. It was during Christmas, they said, that you could really tell how a person felt about you based on the type of present you received.

Needless to say I was floored. Here I was at an adult Christmas party and the most important thing they could say about Christmas was receiving gifts.

Of course some people told me their answers jokingly, but others were dead serious. Only a handful of them even brought up the birth of Jesus Christ.

What was so sad about these people was that most of them have children. Which prompts me to ask myself in amazement, "What are they teaching their children? What type of example are they setting for these kids?"

I have a member in my family who is so caught up in the material aspect of Christmas that she will get offended if someone doesn't give her or her kids a gift. It's so sad.

We need to get beyond focusing on receiving gifts and more in-tune with what Christmas really means.

I fully understand how excited kids can be about Christmas. I vividly remember how my brother, sister and I would make a promise before we fell asleep on Christmas Eve that whoever got up first had to wake the others up. I smile at the memory. So under no circumstances am I telling people to stop giving children presents for Christmas. I just hope that in addition to the gift-giving, we remain mindful of the purpose for the holiday.

I also urge adults to remember that Christmas is really for the kids and that's where the focus should be. We've all had our childhood's, let's let them have theirs without our selfishness in the way.

"People are forgetting the true meaning of Christmas and concentrating more on the material aspect of it."

JUST TELLIN' IT
Minority no longer, it's time for Democrats to lead Indianapolis

By AMOS BROWN III



In the end, the Republican Neanderthals blinked.

With the decision of Curt Coonrod to end his recount battle against Councilwoman-elect Sherron Franklin, Democratic control of Indianapolis/Marion County government became official.

Coonrod had wanted to keep fighting, sources told me, but his attorney, the feisty David Brooks, told him the recount was going against him. So Republican Neanderthal Coonrod fell on his sword, opening the way for the biggest shift in power and responsibility since the dawn of UniGov.

After Dick Clark finishes his Times Square countdown Wednesday night, the responsibility for making the tough decisions in America's 12th largest city will rest squarely on the shoulders of Democratic Mayor Bart Peterson, new Council President Rozelle Boyd and his 14 council compatriots.

Since 1970, Democrats were the loyal, noisy council minority. The voice of those voiceless and powerless in Indianapolis. Now the tables have turned.

• Democrats can't attack Republicans for a failure to lead this city/county.

• Democrats have the majority and the responsibility to lead.

• Democrats must provide the leadership and solutions for Indianapolis' pressing problems: the county's budget's fiscal woes; the lack of affordable housing, especially in the city's older neighborhoods; economic development and jobs; the growing Wishard Hospital funding crisis; environmental issues from sewers to wastewater treatment; improving community policing; finding a tenant for the old United Maintenance Facility; solving the police salary impasse and yes,

finding a taxpayer-neutral way of keeping the Colts.

Republican-leaning reporters and columnists in the white media have fostered the falsehood that Democrats won control only because of the 13-vote margin in Councilwoman-elect Franklin's District 12. They want Indianapolis to be believe that this is still a Republican city/county.

The truth, that has never been reported on the TV news or in the morning newspaper, is that 12,280 more city/county residents voted for Democratic than Republican candidates. Last November was the first Indianapolis election in decades where Democrats polled more votes than Republicans.

That's a mandate for change, responsible change.

Democratic control of the council means changes on the council's committees. No more will those like William Dowden, James Bradford and John Bainbridge chair council committees as their personal fiefdoms where citizen input and consideration weren't tolerated.

Now Democrats have the responsibility of demonstrating that the views of city/county residents will be considered and respected.

Many times in the past, the viewpoints of our African-American community, especially on police issues, were given short shrift by Republican-controlled council committees. That ends now with Democratic council control.

With a record nine African-Americans on the council, including eight Democrats, African Americans will chair several of the council's 10 committees, including hopefully the powerful Rules and Public Policy Committee.

Our African-American community won't be able to blame Republican Neanderthals and obstructionists for a lack of progress on the many problems and issues facing Indianapolis the next four years.

Our community has wanted Democrats to be in control. Now we have it.

Now our community's responsibility is to hold our new council

majority's feet to the fire. We don't expect results overnight. But, we expect the council and the mayor to treat taxpayers with respect. We'll have patience, but it is now time for action and results.

What I'm hearing in the streets

African Americans who didn't live in Indianapolis in 1955 don't really understand the significance of the Crispus Attucks basketball team and its coach Ray Crowe. But that team and their legendary coach blazed a historic path that thousands of African-American athletes have followed.

Those legendary Attucks players played the game, but they were well coached as a team and as men by Ray Crowe.

In *Play On*, the new book documenting 100 years of Hoosier high school sports, author Bill Beck says of Crowe, "Everybody on the team knew who was in charge. Crowe tolerated no opposition to his coaching methods. He taught and coached fundamentals and was adamant in his dislike of showboating."

Crowe's dedication and skill shattered a racial glass ceiling in sports that will forever be his monument. But, Crowe also gave back much more to Indianapolis, as a teacher, state legislator, City-County Council member, Indy Parks Director; a selfless public and community servant.

Ray Crowe, a stalwart lion of this African-American community, has gone to coach on God's Center Court. On behalf of a community who admired and adored him, thanks to Ray Crowe for a lifetime of service to his community and his people. May he rest in peace...

Gov. Joe Kernan is taking action to mitigate the political fallout from the growing phony drivers' licenses for aliens scandal as Republicans smell blood in this developing scandal. To blunt Republican attacks, Kernan chose a respected former U.S. Marshal Michael Carrington to investigate why license branch employees gave driver licenses to aliens with phony identification papers.

This growing scandal could ir-

reparably harm Kernan and Democrats because of the homeland security implications. Imagine the anger and outcry if a foreign terrorist did harm to America while carrying a fraudulently obtained Indiana driver's license?

State Republican chairman Jim Kittle unleashed a new attack last week in his continuing effort to tarnish Kernan, and the late Gov. Frank O'Bannon. Kittle and Republicans mailed out 8,000 copies of a hastily prepared brochure entitled "Joe Kernan's Legacy of Neglect."

The booklet and an accompanying Web site www.legacyofneglect.com accuses Kernan of being responsible for Indiana ranking "first in the nation in job loss, home mortgage foreclosures, and personal bankruptcies."

The Republicans charge that Kernan "failed Hoosiers as administrator, as a job growth advocate, and as an advocate for our state's most vulnerable citizens."

Republicans continually portray Indiana's the worst state in America, one that's losing jobs and economic clout. So then why, between July 2002 and July 2003, has Indiana's population increased more than virtually all other Midwestern states?

The Census Bureau's 2003 population estimates, released last week, show that Indiana's population grew 38,730 in the past year; higher than all Midwestern states except Illinois. In percentage terms, just two Midwestern states, Minnesota and Kentucky, had higher population growth than Indiana's 0.6 percent growth.

My question to Kittle and Republican naysayers is if Indiana's the economic backwater you say it is, then why has Indiana's population growth outstripped the region the past year?

See 'ya next week.

Amos Brown's opinions are not necessarily those of The Indianapolis Recorder. You can contact him at (317) 221-0915 or e-mail him at ACBROWN@AOL.COM.

A proud Nubian history

By GEORGE E. CURRY
NNPA



CAIRO, Egypt - After stepping out of the famed Egyptian Museum here and walking next door to the Coffee Shop

Restaurant, a visitor is likely to meet Khaled Osman Mohamed, the manager.

Khaled bears a striking resemblance to my cousin Walter Lynn Stuart, who lives in Nashville. Each is tall and slender, they have similar complexions and heads that could be politely described as follically-challenged.

If you ask Khaled to describe himself, he says without hesitation, "I'm Nubian." When pressed, the Cairo-born manager says he is proud to be an Egyptian, but even prouder to be a Nubian, a term associated with dark-skinned people and a region along the Nile that joins Egypt and its southern neighbor, Sudan.

The city of Aswan, with its impressive skyline and chocolate-covered people, is the center of Nubian culture. A pamphlet published by the Egyptian Tourist Authority observes: "Here, the Nile is at its most beautiful, flowing through an amber desert and granite rocks, round emerald islands covered in palm groves and tropical plants."

But Nubia reeks of more than post-card beauty. The first published reference to the term "Nubia" was by the Greek author Strabo in "Geographica." He had visited the region in 29 B.C. and researchers believe Nubian is a derivative of the Egyptian word nub, meaning

gold, for which the region is famous. But the history of the region dates back to 6000 B.C. Beginning around 1971 B.C., the region became known as Kush; the Kushites served as middlemen in the flourishing trade between Mediterranean countries and Africa. Four Kushite kings ruled Egypt for 50 years during the 25th Dynasty.

As one of my fellow journalists noted, walk around Aswan today you'll meet yourself coming and going. If you don't see anyone who resembles you, look around and you'll undoubtedly spot someone who looks like a college roommate, a childhood friend or a co-worker.

In Cairo, an African-American is likely to be greeted as "cousin" by merchants trying to collect American dollars. By the time you get to Aswan, Black Americans are upgraded to "Brotha" and "Sister." There is an unbroken, and largely unspoken, link between the two peoples that neither slavery nor the Atlantic Ocean could sever.

Khaled introduced several of us to Hamdy Soliman Oushy, a Nubian who received his master's and doctorate degrees in agriculture from New Mexico State University. At a Nubian culture center in Cairo, where fellow Nubians meet each week to socialize and keep the past alive, Oushy points to a colorful painting that stretches around the room. Nubians are seen walking, working, and interacting.

Much of that history has been submerged - literally. In 1960, the High Dam was built, a 2-mile engineering phenomenon that provides electricity and irrigation for the nation. While the Egyptian government raved about the construction of the dam, not everyone was pleased with the country's version of urban renewal.

"Everything we had is now

under water," Oushy explains. "Our houses, our dead, our villages. My dream is to go back there one day and to have a house." He also realizes that with each passing year, that becomes less likely to happen.

Relocated to large urban areas, such as Cairo, Nubians still hold a special place in their hearts for their native land and for African Americans who visit Egypt.

Khaled, for example, gave his family a two-hour notice that he was bringing a half-dozen Black journalists he had just met home for dinner. His family, like many, has shared an apartment building for years. That alone helps account for the strong family tie. Khaled's family embraced us as their own, making sure we had plenty to eat and that we were comfortable in their home.

Khaled has visited Winston-Salem, N.C., twice within the past decade, mostly to lecture about Nubian culture. He is familiar with all of the American sports and entertainment icons, from Michael Jackson to Michael Jordan.

"Everyone thinks Americans are rich," says Khaled, who loves to joke. "Don't tell them you're

from America. Tell them you're from Sudan."

He and his family speak proudly about their Nubian culture, how Nubians are known for their honesty and taking care of one another.

When asked earlier in the day what he missed about the United States, Khaled replied, "Seafood and Chinese food."

At the mention of Chinese food, everyone groaned.

Later, Khaled suddenly remembered: "There is something that I miss more than anything else."

And what is that?

"C.P. Time," he said, with a big laugh.

When I heard Khaled longing for Colored People's time, a less sophisticated way of saying fashionably late, I knew I had indeed found my Nubian brother.

George E. Curry is editor-in-chief of the NNPA News Service and BlackPressUSA.com. His most recent book is The Best of Emerge Magazine, an anthology published by Ballantine Books. He can be reached through his Web site, georgecurry.com.

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Racial battleground or economic common ground?

By JESSE L. JACKSON SR.
NNPA



On Nov. 5 at Stratford High School, the largest school in Berkeley County, S.C., police launched a raid with their guns drawn.

They handcuffed a dozen or more of some 100 students while unleashing dogs to sniff the students' backpacks.

They found no drugs; they made no arrests. Parents across the city were, not surprisingly, outraged and terrified for their children.

On Nov. 7, the North Charleston police shot and killed Ashberry Wylder. Wylder, a mentally ill man, was arrested for stealing sliced ham from a local store. He swung a knife at the policeman who arrested him. He was then shot to death, with witnesses saying that the final shot came after he was handcuffed.

We will march again in Charleston, a moral witness, calling on the officials of the school, the city and the state to act to remedy a pattern of excessive police violence against African Americans. Police need better training and better pay. Action is needed to stop the violence.

These outrages that feed racial fears distract us from finding the economic common ground so vital to the New South. In the New South, we have learned to play ball together and to fight wars together. In the football stands, we cheer for teams based on the color of their jerseys, not the color of their skins. In the wars, we march together under one flag.

Yet, too often racial fears can still be used to frustrate the ability of working and poor people to find economic common ground.

In South Carolina, one in eight people have no health insurance (and one out of every four goes without insurance at some point in the year). In South Carolina, more than 60,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost in the last three years, and now Georgetown Steel is closing. The textile jobs are going to China. Unemployment hit a nine-year high this summer. Wages are down; benefits are down.

In South Carolina, the budget crisis is forcing cuts in police and schools and vital services.

The economy of the New South was a direct product of the civil rights movement. For decades, segregation not only locked out Blacks, it helped impoverish the South. When you focus on keeping someone down in a ditch, you have to stay down there with him.

It was only after Dr. King and the end of segregation that the New South was possible. German investors built auto plants; Northern capital invested in high tech work. Textiles were modernized.

But the limits of that change are apparent. South Carolina has too many workers who work for low wages, with no benefits, and no security. Its "right-to-work" laws frustrate the ability of workers to organize. Economic inequality grows worse, even as good jobs head abroad.

South Carolina, like much of the South, is still dominated by racial politics. The Republican Party built itself as the party of white sanctuary, playing the race card, embracing the Confederate flag, offering protection against pushy minorities.

But working families in South Carolina - white, Black and

Latino - don't need protection from each other. They need to come together to gain protection from the special interests that benefit from their divisions.

They need to elect representatives who will demand fair taxes, so that vital services aren't cut so that millionaires can get tax breaks. They need representatives who will end the tax dodges and incentives that encourage companies to take jobs from here and more them abroad.

They need representatives who will change the trade policies that are draining good jobs from this country. They need greater investment in education for their children, in health care for their families, in clean air and clean water for their health.

Racial fears still exist. The recent actions of the police only feed them. The marches for dignity will be met with hostility. So the challenge for the New South is whether we can find economic common ground, even as we still struggle against racial fears and for racial justice.

The great battles over segregation were almost 40 years ago. Across the South, we've learned to work together, to play ball together, to fight together. We go to separate churches for the most part, but we are more religious, more conservative in moral values than the secular North.

But now, for the vast majority of the South, the challenge is whether we can register together, vote together, and act together to empower workers across lines of race. The result of that historic struggle will surely define the future of the New South, and of the nation.

Jesse L. Jackson Sr. is founder and president of the Chicago-based Rainbow/Push Coalition.

YOUR VOICE

Do you think that Saddam Hussein's war crimes trial should be public?



Ronald Claypool

"No, it has already stirred up a lot of controversy. People don't understand other people's cultures. Here in America we get too stuck up and arrogant about ourselves and the way we do things."

Ronald Claypool



Michael Jay

"Yes absolutely. I think that he should be used as an example for other dictators who want to suppress terrorism."

Michael Jay



Donna Owens

"Yes. I think that everyone should know what's going on. We all have been waiting to know."

Donna Owens

READERS RESPOND

Thanks Mr. Guynn,

Thank you for your support throughout the year. Your coverage of New Haven's 47th anniversary was wonderful. God bless.

Mother Dorothy B. Roberts
Chairperson

Inmate's thoughts on prison system

I am enclosing a letter written by a friend of mine who is an inmate at the Chain O'Lakes Correctional Facility in Albion, Ind. He has asked me to send the letter to you and request that you please publish it in The Indianapolis Recorder.

There has been much discussion about the overcrowding of our jails and prisons, the treatment of the inmates and the correctional system as a whole. I feel that his letter reflects a fresh and unique way of looking at the situation. It is my hope that you will feel compelled to print it after you have read it.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and the enclosed letter from my friend. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Addie Colley

A New Kind...
Snatched up from the world, still a young man a boy really,
But you got to know that was all part of the plan.

New legislature on the books.
The law grows every day:

Increased mandatory sentencing.
And with the "Habitual" the judge is giving Ones all day.

Slave, offender, convict, inmate it is all the same.

The overseer has exchanged the whip, but not the chains.
And \$4.50 a week (just 90 cents a day) is nothing to pay,
for a grown man who has labored: now shouldn't that be a shame?

The governor's calling for reform,

It cost millions to open a few beds - that is what he said.

But politicians are getting richer off of legislation that makes it all OK.

Close the factories - the poverty level grows insane.

Finding work is impossible,
And you wonder why some look to crime to make a way.

"Big Business" has a new game -

And prisons are its aim.
"King Cotton" is no longer the cash crop -
The money has always been in human labor -
"The Offender."
A new kind of Slave.

Recorder staffer makes a difference

Mr. John Hurst, we at Indy Parks and Recreation Municipal Gardens Family Center would like to thank you very much on the fantastic job you did, and for your participation in our Christmas program Dec. 13, 2003.

It's people like you that help make a difference for the youth of today in our community by sharing your time and support. We wish you continued success in your profession.

Again, thank you
Kim Sims-Fingers
Park Manager

Saddam's capture does not address larger issues

By RON WALTERS
NNPA



Catching the brutal dictator Saddam Hussein in Iraq is portrayed by the Bush administration as a big deal. And that's not surprising because it fits with the changing rationale for why Bush went into Iraq.

Initially, it was the urgent need to find and neutralize weapons of mass destruction. Later, it was that Saddam had committed monstrous crimes for which he deserved to be removed. While it easy to agree with Bush about Saddam, it is also important to note that this is all beside the point.

While it could be a short-term victory for Bush, it also has the potential to change the tenor of the elections here. With the backdrop of Saddam's capture, there are heightened demonstrations and violence throughout Iraq, an indication that the militant opposition is attempting to send a signal that they still intend to resist American occupation.

American troops were fired on and pro-Saddam demonstrations were held in a wave of anti-Americanism that is not being widely reported and acknowledged in the U.S.

A more troubling possibility is that if Saddam wasn't in charge of the Iraqi resistance, it means there will be ongoing attacks on Ameri-

can troops and that, unfortunately, more of our troops will die in a needless sacrifice. This is almost guaranteed because of the embarrassment and shame felt by some Sunnis at the treatment of Saddam, who was in many quarters reviled because of his opposition to the United States.

Almost unnoticed the middle of this, the leader of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai barely escaped assassination from a bomb, the day after Saddam was found. He was traveling over a bridge that his security detail normally used when he left the seat of government.

Despite the fact that they will have to be more careful, there will be repeated attempts on his life and the life of the premier of Pakistan and perhaps even Turkey as well. In any of these three countries, if the resistance succeeds in changing the government support of the United States, the new dispensation could provide a real basis of support outside of Iraq, for the resistance activities in that country to continue.

Then, if the transition from the United States occupation of Iraq to a moderate Iraqi Governing Council fails and a militant Shiite government is established in its place, the U.S. stands to lose control of the situation on the ground and an Iranian-like situation could develop.

In this case, the oil resources of the U.S. would certainly not be in the hands of Bush cronies and the long-term management of these resources not at all assuredly favorable to the U.S. As such, I can envision people raising the question: What was gained by the in-

vasion?

Finally, senior military officers estimate that the United States will remain in Iraq for perhaps the next two years. What will be the cost of stationing troops in a country where they are constant shooting targets and how long will the patience of the American people last?

What will be the cost of reservists doing unexpected, long-term duty and in the process losing their jobs and small businesses and coming back to experience poor health care from Veterans Administration health care system?

And what will be the response of voters next year when Bush tells them that he needs another \$100 billion in order for American troops (not Haliburton) to complete the job?

Another uncertainty is that a live Saddam Hussein poses a certain threat to Bush. I get the feeling that Bush doesn't want him to live very long, may not have wanted him to have been found alive, and now faces the problem that he doesn't know what Saddam will say.

Saddam's relationship with the United States intelligence and military services goes back a long way. He undoubtedly possesses secrets and other information that could be an embarrassment to both Bush 1 and Bush 2 - and throw in Ronald Reagan for good measure.

Think about it. Why did Saddam try to kill President Bush's father? Did Saddam perceive some kind of double-cross? It will be interesting to see if he is exposed to the kind of legal proceedings where he will be allowed to engage these subjects. I doubt it.

In any case, the din of victory is loud at the moment. But conditions on the ground in the Middle East are dynamic and could change in a hurry. In fact, I am betting that they will.

Ron Walters is the Distinguished Leadership Scholar, director of the African American Leadership Institute in the Academy of Leadership and professor of government and politics at the University of Maryland-College Park. His latest book is *White Nationalism, Black Interests* (Wayne State University Press).



Bush urged not to gloat over Saddam's capture

By J. ZAMBA BROWNE
Special to the NNPA
From the Amsterdam News

It appears that supporters of President Bush are gloating over the capture of Iraq's dictator Saddam Hussein and seem to believe that the recent development could definitely be a political plus in next year's election.

But don't tell this to the dean of New York's congressional delegation, Democratic Rep. Charles B. Rangel, who feels that the capture is no more of a plus than the actual invasion of Iraq itself by the U.S.

While he believes that the invasion was morally wrong, Rangel still feels Saddam's capture was also a political plus for the Bush administration.

However, he said that if one really wants an accurate response, the following questions should be asked:

"Is the United States and the world more safe as the result of Saddam's capture? Will the insurgents and the terrorists be restrained because he has been captured? And was Saddam responsible for the 9/11 attacks? Is the United States in any

danger because of the possibility that Saddam may have had weapons of mass destruction? And do we have or ever had any evidence that Saddam is connected with al-Qaeda?"

Rangel said that the answers to each of these questions is "no." "Therefore, what we have here is an international villain who violated the mandates of the United Nations and that he mistreated his own people," Rangel said.

According to Rangel, the U.S. took it upon itself, without support of its regular European allies and the United Nations, to attack Iraq and kill its people, as well as cause suffering and the loss of American lives, just to "capture one bum."

Therefore, Rangel continued, the real question is, "Don't we have a bigger villain in North Korea who suppresses his own people, violates international law, and who we know has weapons of mass destruction?"

Rangel went on to ask why the U.S. hasn't also liberated North Korea from its ruling tyrant.

The Harlem lawmaker also said the United States shouldn't have gone to war against Iraq in

the first place. "I think the international community could have gotten rid of Saddam without the loss of lives," he stated. "We have paid a heavy price to capture Saddam Hussein, and I don't know where this is going to take President Bush in terms of another so-called victory."

Should the Iraqi dictator receive the death penalty?

"I am vigorously opposed to the death penalty," Rangel declared. "We don't have the right to take a life." Rangel also said he was vehemently opposed to the assassination by the U.S. of Saddam's two sons.

"I thought it was uncivilized to kill these two men and wash and shave their bodies before putting them on public display for the world to see how barbaric we are," Rangel declared.

Rep. Major R. Owens, a Brooklyn Democrat, hailed Saddam's capture but said that the victory does not justify the war in Iraq.

"We must now den and that they bring our troops home," he stated. "We must also stop spending a billion dollars a week in Iraq and bring our dollars home."

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www.marsh.net

Manufacturers'
Double
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50¢ & Over = \$1
With Your Marsh
Fresh I-D-E-A Card

Details available in-store.

Pork, Smoked
Water Added,
Half 7-lb. to 9-lb.
**Cook's Semi
Boneless Hams**
\$1.19
LB.
With Your Marsh
Fresh I-D-E-A Card

Save
\$1.10
LB.

 **Cook's**
Pork, Smoked, Water Added, Whole 14-lb. to 17-lb. Avg.
**Semi-Boneless
Hams**

89¢
LB.

(Limit 1) With Your Marsh Fresh I-D-E-A Card
and \$10 Additional Purchase (Excluding Beer, Wine & Tobacco Products)

NEW CROP!
Red Flame
From Chile

**Seedless
Grapes**

98¢
LB.

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Get A
Free
24-Pack of
**Coke or
Pepsi**
For The
New Year!

Limit 1
When You
Buy Marsh
Party Trays
This Year!

With Your
Marsh Fresh
I-D-E-A Card

Purchase \$40 or more worth of Marsh Produce, Seafood or Deli Party Trays now through December 27, 2003 and we'll give you a 24-Pack of 12-oz. cans Coke or Pepsi products when you shop with us the week of December 28, 2003 through January 3, 2004.
All transactions and purchases require the use of your Marsh Fresh I-D-E-A Card. Check your My Marsh Receipt.

**\$50**
Give a Gift that is
Always in Good Taste
Marsh Gift Cards

KRAFT
Cheese Cubes
Mild Cheddar
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PARMESAN
NEW!

KRAFT
Mild Cheddar
Pre Cut For Crackers

KRAFT
SHARP CHEDDAR
Cracker Cuts

KRAFT
Singles

33% OFF
**Kraft
Cheese**

With Your Marsh Fresh I-D-E-A Card
Assorted Varieties 6-oz. to 48-oz. Natural Cheese,
Processed Cheese Slices or 10-ct. to 12-ct. String Cheese
(Excluding Velveeta, Philadelphia Cream Cheese and Cheez Whiz)

6.75-oz. to 10-oz. Swiss Cheese,
Chicken in a Biskit, Sociables, Twigs, Assorted
Varieties Triscuits, Thins, Crisps or Better Cheddars

**Nabisco
Crackers**

BUY ONE • GET ONE
FREE!

With Your Marsh Fresh I-D-E-A Card

Save
\$2.99

Assorted Varieties
Half Gallon Edy's Home Made
Ice Cream, 1.75-Quart Edy's Grand Yogurt or

**Edy's Grand
Ice Cream**

BUY ONE • GET ONE
FREE!

With Your Marsh Fresh I-D-E-A Card

Save
\$5.39

Mix & Match!
**6-Pack 24-oz.
Pepsi or Coke**
and Pepsi Products and Coke Products

2/\$3.88

Save
\$2.10
or more on 2

Limit 2
With Your Marsh
Fresh I-D-E-A Card

Two 6-Packs
of 24-oz. Bottles Are
As Much Pepsi
or Coke as a
24-ct. Case
of 12-oz. Cans
FOR ONLY \$3.88



Religion

SPIRITUAL OUTLOOK

Leap for joy

By **BISHOP T. GARROT**
BENJAMIN JR.

20 And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God.

21 Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh.

22 Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.

23 Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets. (Luke 6:20-23 KJ)

My New Year's resolution this year is simple: Leap for joy whatever God allows to happen to me or through me. Isn't it encouraging to know that no matter what our lot or circumstance, Our Sovereign God has a blessing for us so that we can find happiness in whatever state we find ourselves in.

Most of us think only about this life and what we are going through, but Jesus wants us to see what we are coming to and what is in store for you, not here, but in heaven.

When you live for the king and are in the kingdom, you live not two lives but one. In other words, your life down here on Earth is not separated from your eternal life or your life in heaven. They are one.

This really becomes important when you put everything in perspective. Down here, we only have "3 score and 10 years" and maybe a few more by reason of strength, 70 years on the planet and then quicker than the blink of an eye, we enter the second portion of our lives.

The first part is 70 give or take a few; then as Bruce Wilkinson says, "then comes the blink." That's it - blink - and we enter the better portion of our lives, try 700 billion years which is only a small portion of eternity.

Jesus is saying that those of us who have been punished and pummeled by life, and by folks and their meanness and people and their hatin' spirits will on that day, the day that begins the best part of our lives, the day we die, on that day, payday, the haters will get paid and the hated will get paid.

Jesus after healing the man with the withered hand on the Sabbath goes to a mountain to pray and took the 12 with him. Simon Peter, Andrew, his brother, James and John, Phillip and Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas, James, the other Simon the zealot, Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, the traitor. He ministered to the multitude and his anointing was so powerful he healed all of them and then he said these immortal words: Blessed (you who have been dissed, dumped on, and demoted), rejoice in that day and leap for joy...

Have you ever considered why it seems that sometimes when you finally get saved and start living for God, it seems that the enemy sees a target on your back and makes every effort to hit the bull's eye, and it feels sometimes like God has forgotten about you, and the folks who don't even seem to care about the things of God, they seem to prosper.

Guess what? They are really not prospering and God really has not forgotten about you. They are having their day in the sun while you are preparing for your forever reward from the Son.

Knowing that you are blessed regardless of the circumstances will make you happy, but to know that you are blessed by and in the circumstances will make you leap for joy! Happy New Year!

You may write to Dr. Benjamin at Bishop@lighttotheworld.org or at Light of the World Christian Church, 4646 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis, IN 46228.

New release introduces unsung gospel genius Raymond Myles to the mass market

By **BRANDON A. PERRY**
Staff Writer

It has been five years since gospel singer Raymond Myles, known as New Orleans' "best kept secret," was called home to be with the Lord.

Legendary producer Leo Sacks has maintained fond memories of the first time he saw Myles while on assignment for Billboard Magazine in 1983.

"Raymond gave me a tremendous sense of strength and courage," Sacks said. "I could feel he'd been through the storm. His songs were simple truths and he sang them with the voice of experience."

Myles, whose vocal style has been described as a cross between Donny Hathaway and Little Richard, is also remembered for his flamboyant personality, rhinestone-studded suits, monogrammed handkerchiefs and snakeskin boots that "would make Liberace blush."

He is best known as an artist who brought joy to thousands of regulars at the annual New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival.

Those who have met Myles, however emphasize that underneath the glitzy packaging was a man who wasn't perfect, but

maintained a pragmatic and sincere devotion to Christ until the gates of heaven were opened for him. He appeared humble to the end, despite the fact that was asked to sing at Mahalia Jackson's funeral in 1972, performed before President Bill Clinton in 1997 and had an audience with Pope John Paul II.

Sacks, like others who have had the pleasure of seeing Raymond Myles perform live, are hoping that the recent release of a rare studio project will introduce the dynamic vocalist to listeners who haven't been exposed to the soulful praise of this colorful music minister.

Sony Legacy Recordings has issued a new CD entitled "A Taste of Heaven," which is the only full-length studio album produced by Myles, a man who was killed while on the verge of becoming a nationally known treasure of praise and worship music. (However, "Heaven Is the Place," a live compilation introducing some of Myles' strongest material, was released in 1997).

The 11 tracks featured on "A Taste of Heaven" were originally recorded in 1995 and issued on the tiny independent record label Honey Darling Records. Only a few hundred promotional copies were released, but it quickly became a classic in the Southern re-

gion of the U.S. and received consistent airplay. In fact, a few of the album's songs can be heard occasionally on New Orleans radio.

The cuts on "A Taste of Heaven" have been newly mixed, digitally remastered and feature the never-before released "Elijah's Rock," recorded live in New York City.

A few of the songs sound a bit dated, containing the overproduction and synthesized touches common in songs released during the mid-90s.

But the more powerful and soul-stirring pieces, which make up the majority, are enough to make someone glad for taking the time to find this set. Myles' versatile baritone voice can range from reverentially smooth "Be on Fire" to passionate and fiery "He's Right There." Myles is backed by the equally able and grossly underrated RAMS (Raymond Anthony Miles Singers) choir.

Musically, the listener is introduced to a tasty variety of genres, from catchy, funky Neville Brothers-style soul to mainstream pop and the blues oriented style of traditional, Southern Christian songs.

Maurice Bottomley, a music columnist for an online publication called PopMatters said the

► See MYLES, Page B3



IN THE SPIRIT



During the weekend of Dec. 19-21 Providence A.M.E. Church held their live nativity presentation for the community. (Photo/C. Guynn)



First Baptist Church North hosted its annual Musical Extravaganza last weekend. (Above) award-winning music minister Patrick Love directed the First Baptist Church Choir. (Right) Minister Love prepares attendees for praise music during the event. (Photos/C. Guynn)



Ralph "Santa" Tyler asked for the Christmas wish list of four-year-old Aileal Graves during the recent Breakfast With Santa gathering at Holy Angels Catholic Church. (Photo/C. Guynn)

ACTS OF FAITH

North United Methodist is where spiritual journeys meet

By **TERRI RENA THOMPSON**

And now abiding faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. (1st Corinthians 13)

During our holiday times, they are God's outreaches that help to place the smile on the faces of children, and parents who are unable to fit the bill. Who are they? Let us not forget about the Bread 'n Bowl initiative that takes place more than once a week; IPD Crime Watch to help fight crime in our neighborhood; Health Ministries that are usually a variety of health services that come together to distribute information and also help others with their illness; monetary funds that help others during hardships like shortage of rent or an overdue light bill. Again, who are they?

North United Methodist Church is currently our community outreach and I must

say their efforts toward reaching out to the community are excellent with the help of Robin-Jackson, director of community ministries and Alan C. Archibald, director of adult and children's ministries.

There are many other events of the community as well as activities for individuals that involve the community, including the bus tickets that are made available for individuals in need of transportation for a job search, clothing, and toys. In addition, the church has allowed other groups and organizations, such as the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir, to use the site.

We have many organizations and churches in our city that provide good services. But I have to give North United Methodist Church a star at this time for their efforts. Even this information doesn't cover the breadth of the church's contributions, so everyone is invited to come see for themselves by attend Sunday service at 8:45 a.m. or 11 a.m.

An organization known as the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) provides shelter, meals and comprehensive support to families without homes. The organization was created by Karen Olson, a New Jersey native. North United Methodist Church is involved in this new program. This congregation is one of the churches that currently reach out the most to the community through weekly and daily services.

I wouldn't dare fail to mention that the success of this ministry is due to the Lord and David Owen, senior pastor.

IHN houses up to five families with a maximum of 14 individuals, and the church furnishes sleeping accommodations.

North United Methodist Church, located at 3808 N. Meridian St., is where spiritual journeys meet. Plenty of love and God fills this house, with plenty of outreach available for those in need. North United Methodist Church is a lighthouse for the community. To God be the glory!

MOTIVATIONAL NOTE

Why faith?

By **WILLIE JOLLEY**



How many of you enjoy paying your car insurance? I would venture to guess that there are not a lot of you who enjoy making that payment every month, yet if you've ever had a car accident, you are sooooo glad you made that payment.

The same is true for faith, you might not want to pay the price to build your faith yet you will be so glad that you have it when you need it!

A friend asked me how I handled the deaths of three of my closest family members in less than 30 days and how I was able to speak at all of their funerals. I told them that unbeknownst to me I had been preparing for it for a long time. I told them that when I was a boy my mom made me go to church, even when I didn't want to go, and my faith was being fed even when I didn't know it.

When I got older I sometimes didn't feel like going to church or taking time to pray, but something inside of me was pushing me to go to church and I had a yearning to pray, even when I was tired. I still took time to

pray. Like paying the car insurance, I didn't always want to write that check, but when I had a car accident, I was so glad I had that insurance. Friends, sometimes paying the price is tough but you will be so glad you have that assurance, that blessed assurance, when you need it. Have faith.

From Willie Jolley, motivational speaker/singer/author. Do you want to start your day with power? Visit www.williejolley.com for info on the exciting new "Willie Jolley Wake Up And Win" daily motivational wake up call.

Order Of Service

Greater Joshua Baptist
2201 N. Arsenal Ave.
923-1050

Sunday School.....9:00AM
Morning Worship.....11:00AM
Mon. Children's Bible Study
6:00PM
Wed. Bible Study and Prayer Mtg
7:00PM



Rev. J.M. Tunstall, Pastor

Temple of Believers
Deliverance Center
1913 Prospect
317-638-8783



Bishop James Humbert
Pastor

Sunday School
10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning
Worship Service
11:30 A.M.
Tuesday Night
Bible Study
7:30 P.M.
In all this ways acknowledge Him
And He shall direct thy path.
Proverbs 3:6

Temple of Praise Assembly
3969 Meadows Drive

Sunday School.....10:00 AM
Morning Worship.....11:00 AM
Bible Study Wednesdays.....7:00 PM



Donald L. Golder,
Pastor
317-873-8630

First Free Will Baptist Church
"Do You Love Jesus? We Do!"
2433 Barnes Avenue
Indpls, IN 46208 • (317) 923-6667



Pastor Chas A. Sheppard
First Lady Edna M. Sheppard

Schedule of Services:
Sunday School.....9:30AM
Morning Worship.....11:00AM
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 12 Noon and 7:00PM
New Member Class.....Sun. 6:00PM
As Announced

BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

414 W. Vermont St.
317-634-7002
Church School.....9:30am
Sunday Worship.....11:00am
Bible Study Tuesday.....6:00pm



REV. JOHN L. LAMBERT
PASTOR
"Historic Church - New Vision"

You are always welcome to experience the
Trinity Difference at
Trinity C.M.E. Church
2253 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Avenue
(317) 925-8275



Rev. Dr. O'Neal Shyne, Jr., Pastor
Sunday Praise Service.....8:00am
Sunday School.....9:15am
Sunday Worship.....10:45am
Wednesday Prayer Meeting & Bible Study.....7:00pm
Saturday Praise & Worship.....6:00pm

Pleasant Union
Missionary Baptist
Church
1202 Eugene St.
925-4382



Charles W. Harris, Sr.
Pastor

Sunday School.....9:15AM
Sunday Worship.....10:50AM
Wed. Bible Study.....12:00-1P
Wed. Bible Study.....7P-9P
Thur. Marriage Classes.....7P-8P
Fri. Drug Classes.....7P-8P

Greater Saint
James Missionary
Baptist Church
835 St. Paul Street



REV. E.E. RUSS,
Pastor

Worship Hours:
Sunday School.....9:45am
Sunday Morn. Worship 10:45am
Tuesday Prayer Meeting &
Bible Study
6:00pm - 8:00pm
For a Ride call: 637-9731
Enter to Worship
Leave to Serve.

Christ Missionary Baptist Church
1001 W. Eugene Street
925-4132



DR. MELVIN B. GORTON, SR., PASTOR

Sunday School
9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship
11:00 a.m.



Pastor Michael,
First Lady Elaine &
Emmanuel Scaife
"A New Church Doing
A New Thing"

Sunday Worship.....10:00AM
Tuesday Bible Study.....6:30PM
An Affiliate of Light of the
World Christian Church

"Where We Exalt The Savior
And Edify The Saints"
Second
Baptist Church
3705 Kessler Blvd. North Dr.
(317) 925-0335
Prayer Line 317-925-3333



Pastor David W.
Greene Sr.

Sun. School.....9:30am
Sun. Worship Service.....7:45am & 10:45am
Wed. Bible Study.....7:00pm
All are welcome!
Visit us at our website:
www.sbcinc.org

Kingsley Terrace Church of Christ



Stanley J. Hubbard
Senior Minister

Where God is Glorified
Saints are Sanctified &
Lives are Changed



2031 E. 30th Street • Indpls., IN 46218
(317) 924-9055 • Fax (317) 9172
Web Page www.ktcc.com • E-mail:
koheleth@ktcc.com

SCHEDULE OF SERVICE
Sunday Bible Study.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....10:00 & 5:00 p.m.
Mon. Men & Ladies Class
Tues. Bible Study.....10:00 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.
Thurs. Home Bible Study
Fri. 2nd & 4th couple to couple session
Sat. Anger Management
Sat. Radio Ministry AM 1310 1:00 p.m.

ELDERS
Dwaine Hines, Stephen Warren
DEACONS
Leroy Kincaid, Oscar Middlebrook
Paul Taylor, Bobby Wardlow, Thomas Williams

ZION HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH
"A Church Striving For Excellence in Christ"



David A Hampton, MTS
Senior Pastor

5950 E. 46th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46226
547-4387

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning
7:45 and 10:45 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
Sunday Church School
& **New Member Equip Class**
Wednesday Bible Study
10:30 a.m.
7:00 p.m. Youth & Adults

We are committed to making
and equipping disciples for
service through Christ-
centered teaching and
holistic ministry.

Come visit us and discover
exciting opportunities for
personal and spiritual growth



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The Church of Christ
1111 N. 11th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202
317-254-5922 Phone
317-252-1501 Fax
www.lightoftheworld.org
www.tombenjamin.com



Come See
For Yourself!

SUNDAY
Worship Services 8:30am and 11:30 am
Sunday Classes 10:15am-11:15am
New Member's Classes 10:15am-11:15am
Children's Church 11:30am
Childcare available at all services

TUESDAY NIGHT
Youth and Young Adult night
6:00pm-6:30pm Youth Bible Study
6:30-7:30pm Boys to Men
Girls to Women

7:00pm-8:00pm Young Adult Study
7:30pm-8:30pm Spirit of the Light Youth Choir Rehearsal
8:00pm-9:00pm New Light Ensemble Young Adult Rehearsal
8:00pm & 9:00pm Exercise Classes

Wednesday
6:30pm-8:00pm Teaching with Tom Benjamin
6:30pm-8:00pm Respect Program for the Children (5-12)
Voices of the Light Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm
New Member's Class 8:00pm
Childcare Available

SATURDAY
8:00am-9:00am Prayer Warriors

LIVING WATERS

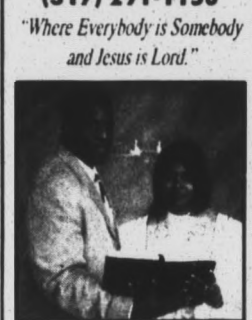
Multi-cultural & family oriented



Rev. Dr. Jean V. Wilson
Wednesdays at 7PM



Augusta Christian Church
Disciples of Christ
3445 W. 71st St.
(317) 291-1150
"Where Everybody is Somebody
and Jesus is Lord."



Pastor Jacquelyn
& **Elder Randy**
Powell

Sunday Worship.....10:20AM
.....12 NOON
Wed. Bible Study.....6:30PM
Thur. Bible Study.....6:30PM

MT. CALVARY
FREEWILL BAPTIST
2743 N. Sherman Dr.
(317) 547-4123



Bishop Robert D. Watts

Sunday School.....9:45AM
Morning Worship.....11:00AM
Afternoon.....4:00PM
Sunday Night.....7:00PM
Wed. Bible Study
12pm-1:00PM & 6:30PM-7:30PM
All Are Welcome

UNIVERSITY
UNITED
METHODIST
The Spiritually
Alive Church
5959 Grandview Dr.
317/257-0237

Church School.....8:55 A.M.
Morning Worship.....10:05 A.M.
Tuesday Night
Bible Study.....7:00 P.M.



DR. FRANK
N. MOORE
PASTOR

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
NORTH INDIANAPOLIS

Pastor and People:
"Growing in the Word...Living in the Victory."



Rev. Dr. Ivan Douglas Hicks
Senior Minister

Worship Schedule
7:30 a.m. Radio Broadcast
8:45 a.m. Worship Service
9:50 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
Services Interpreted for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing

Wednesday Service
6:30 p.m. Prayer and Praise
7:15 p.m. Pastor's Bible Class

Listen to WTLC 1310 AM
@ Sunday 7:30 a.m.

880 West 28th Street
925-2672 Fax: 927-7021
Email: lvandougashicks@aol

TRUE VINE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
4050 Millersville Road
545-2946

Sunday School
9:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship Service
10:55 AM

Wednesday
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study
7:00 PM

ALL ARE WELCOME!

FOR TRANSPORTATION CALL 545-2946

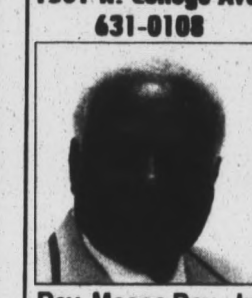
Witherspoon
Presbyterian
Church
"WHERE JESUS IS THE SOURCE
OF OUR STRENGTH"

9:00 a.m. Church School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Prayer Meeting/Bible Study
Wednesday at 6:45 p.m.
and
Friday at 1:00 p.m.

5136 N. Michigan Rd.
251-2297

John M. Thomas
Interim Pastor
Nursery Available /
Handicap Accessible

Grace Missionary
Baptist Church
1501 N. College Ave.
631-0108



Rev. Moses Day, Jr.
Pastor & Founder

Sunday School.....9:30am
Morning School.....10:00am
Morning Service.....11:15am
Wednesday
Prayer & Bible Study
7:30pm

Come Where The Feast Of
The Lord Is Going On"

GREATER
SANDERS TEMPLE

Church of God
in Christ

3516 East 39th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46205
317-546-0663



Elder John C. Davis,
III, Pastor

Order of Services

Sunday School
9:45 a.m.

Sunday Morning Service
11:00 a.m.

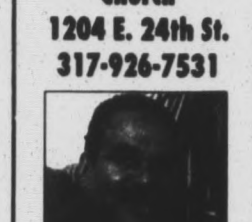
YPWW Sunday
6:00 p.m.

Sunday Evening Service
7:00 p.m.

Tuesday Bible Study
7:00 p.m.

Friday Pastoral Teaching
7:00 p.m.

All Friends
Missionary Baptist
Church
1204 E. 24th St.
317-926-7531



Rev. James E. Roberts,
Pastor

Sunday School.....9:30a.m.
Morning Service.....11:00a.m.

Bible Study
Tuesday.....11:00a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00p.m.

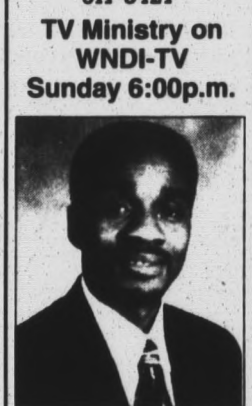
"Where The Love Of God
Is Experienced"

Friendship
Missionary
Baptist Church
1301 N. Goodlet
917-8024

Sunday School-9:30am
Morning Worship-11:00am
N.B.C. Hour Sunday-6:00pm
Wed. Prayer Mtg Bible Study
9:30am & 7:00pm

Friendship Christian
Academy & Childcare
917-8427

TV Ministry on
WIND-TV
Sunday 6:00p.m.



REV. RONALD
COVINGTON, SR.
PASTOR

"Prayer and Stay"

St. Luke
Baptist
Church
5325 E. 30th St.
543-9505



Rev. Curtis L. Vance
Pastor

Sunday Services

8:30
Sunday School

10:00
Morning Worship

3:30
*Afternoon Worship

6:00
*Evening Worship
*only when scheduled

Wednesday Services

7:00
Prayer Service

8:00
Bible Class

Eastern Star Church
"Where Jesus Is Exalted and The Word Is Explained!"
Come visit one of our three worship locations!

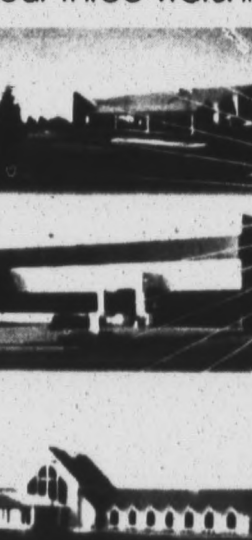
Main Campus
Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 12:00 Noon
Sunday Church School: 10:15-11:30 a.m.
5750 E. 30th Street
317.591.5050

Northwest Campus
Worship: 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Church School: 9:00-10:15 a.m.
7223 Woodland Avenue/Park 100
(near I-465 & 71st Street)

Northeast Campus (NEW!)
Worship: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Church School: 8:00-9:15 a.m.
8850 E. 106th Street
Fishers, IN
(across from Lantern Road Elementary)

Visit our television ministry at WHMB-TV, Channel
40 on Saturdays at 6:00 p.m. and Sundays at 4:00
p.m. Our radio ministry airs on WTLC-AM 1310,
Mon-Fri from 9:15-9:30 a.m.; WBRI-AM 1500,
Mon-Fri from 9:30-10:00 a.m. and WIJY Joy 96
on 95.9FM, Mon-Fri from 10:00-10:30 a.m.

Visit our website at www.easternstarchurch.org for more information.



Pastor Jeffrey A. &
Lady Sharon Johnson, Sr.

Churches co-sign loans for small firms that can't qualify

From San Antonio Express-News

SAN ANTONIO — Not many people would co-sign a loan to help an ex-convict build a business.

The 24-member Community of Churches for Social Action did. It pledged \$5,000 so that ex-convict Levi Reed of Levi Reed Enterprises could get a \$10,000 loan to expand into producing live musical performances.

In fact, the congregations put up \$24,000, along with \$5,000 from the Community Economic Revitalization Agency, to get a matching \$30,000 from the Mustard Seed Foundation solely to take on part of the liability for small East Side business owners who need a loan but don't qualify on their own. Since they launched the program last year, the churches have co-signed about 13 loans, with just a single default.

It's a rare move for a church. Most flocks donate to the needy. They're comfortable funding educational programs and social services. But financing business ventures is too close to for-profit activities, too close to the sometimes-berated lucre.

The community of predominantly African-American churches takes a different view: co-signing is a blessing.

"It's just part of the Christian thing to do to help people who would have a hard time getting financing the traditional way," said the Rev. Herman Price Jr., pastor of 93-year-old St. John Baptist Church near Olmos Park and vice chairman of the organization. "My church hears all the time that to be a Christian requires more than praying."

The churches view the Eastside Business Loan Fund as a key part of their comprehensive strategy, which includes scholarships and soon homebuyer education, to strengthen families and communities.

Strong communities generate strong flocks, organizers say.

"It's hard to minister to the soul on Sunday morning if people need shelter and jobs," Velma Willoughby Kemp, executive director of Community of Churches for Social Action, said.

So the churches asked ACCION, a nonprofit microlender, to provide the financial expertise to make their worldly endeavor work. Currently, the group will co-sign up to \$7,500 for a small business on

San Antonio's East Side. But ACCION must sign off on a loan applicant before the churches consider co-signing.

As loans are paid off, the newly released collateral is cycled into new loans. One loan has been repaid so far, so the churches are looking for partners to expand the program.

While in some cases they're still struggling, recipients say the churches' collateral helped them get loans that kept them in business during the recent economic downturn.

Charles Lozano, owner of STAR Automotive and Transmission, couldn't get a traditional loan even by putting up his equipment and vehicle as collateral.

After the churches co-signed so he could get \$15,000 in June, Lozano was able to double his staff to service more vehicles.

He also cut his overhead by buying a building that requires him to pay less than half the rent he had been paying. In addition, Lozano bought diagnostic equipment to speed the repair process.

"It gave me the chance to do better diagnostics rather than giving a 'mechanic's guess,' as they say," Lozano said.

The loan was a godsend for Lozano, who said he is on his "last hurrah" after suffering a heart attack in 1997.

"I've got to make this work for my wife and my little one who's 10 years old," Lozano said. "I pray a lot. I'm a firm believer, and I tell you, it helps."

The co-signed loan sustained Yvonne Ray's Anointed Hands Beauty Salon when Fort Sam Houston closed its New Braunfels Avenue gate after the 9-11 attacks. Her salon was located across the street.

"The churches helped me hold onto my name and to survive so I could serve my clientele that had been built over seven years," Ray said. She has since relocated her business to Walzem Road and repaid the \$4,000 loan.

As for Reed, "I'm still in the game a year later," he said.

Reed, a music producer since 1998, used part of the \$10,000 loan to produce a concert and parties at two nightclubs, maintain a Web site and purchase promotional items, such as T-shirts, for giveaways.

"I had it bad, coming from prison," Reed said. "I'm blessed for the loan. I really appreciate it."

Phillips Temple CME Angel Tree initiative



Phillips Temple CME Church, under the leadership of Rev. Oliver DeWayne Walker, recently hosted their "Angel Tree Holiday Ministry." Left: Church members help distribute gifts to families selected from the angel tree. Twins Andre'ya (left) and Andr'ea Jones received gifts along with their mother, Latoya. (Photos/C. Gwynn)

Newark cleric wants to revive national Muslim organization

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — The nation's largest black Muslim organization, decimated in recent months by the resignation of founder Warith Deen Mohammed and other leaders, has hit bottom but can still be salvaged, according to a Newark cleric who has embraced the task of rebuilding it.

Mustafa El-Amin, 46, imam of the Masjid Ibrahim mosque, is scheduled to announce his plans to revive the American Society of Muslims during a talk Sunday at the Paul Robeson Cultural Center at Rutgers University in Newark.

"I'm stepping forward to renew, revise and reorganize the ASM," El-Amin said. "First of all, because I understand that to be (Mohammed's) wish, and second, to preserve the history, legacy and integrity of this community. His intent was to continue to make an effort to correct the problems and make it

better, rather than abandon ship."

Mohammed resigned unexpectedly in late August at ASM's annual convention. That led to widespread defections that have crippled the Chicago-based group, which is believed to have about 1.5 million members and is considered the largest predominantly Black Muslim group in the country.

"It was a great surprise to the Muslim community," said Ibrahim Hooper, spokesman for the Washington, D.C.-based Council on American-Islamic Relations. "There was no hint he was thinking of leaving."

Mohammed, the son of Nation of Islam founder Elijah Muhammad, formed the ASM in 1975 when he aligned the separatist Nation of Islam with more mainstream Islamic principles. The move led Louis Farrakhan to split with the group and revive Elijah Muhammad's separatist beliefs.

El-Amin said he plans to continue W.D. Mohammed's efforts to establish better interfaith dialogue and understanding. Those efforts, particularly the continuing attempt to adopt mainstream Islamic religious ideas, were resisted by many in the ASM, which led to Mohammed's resignation.

El-Amin's other plans include reinstating the ASM's Islamic Affairs Council to communicate and execute goals and programs, and what he called a brainstorming team of professional members.

He also said he would stress Islamic education, adding that another of Mohammed's complaints was that many imams had refused to fully learn the Koran.

Some New Jersey Muslims are not sure what to expect on Sunday.

"I haven't the slightest idea," said Abdul-Malik Ali, imam of the Masjid Al-Taqwa mosque in Trenton. "I'm trying to go into this thing without any precon-

ceived expectations and listen to what he says and take it back to the community."

One New Jersey Muslim cleric, who asked not to be identified, expressed doubts that El-Amin would be the one to eventually lead an ASM renaissance.

"People I've spoken to and asked about this don't think this guy's got a chance," he said. "They expect the leadership is going to come out of some other place than New Jersey, like Chicago or Los Angeles."

El-Amin said he believes it is his responsibility to take the first step toward rebuilding the group.

"If they ask, 'Who made you leader?' I'd say, 'We who?' There was nobody in place to elect anyone. Yes, I stepped forward to lead this effort. Once we put a group in place, then we can begin."

"I'll say to them, 'Look, we've got something good here. We just can't sit back and let it die.' People need to know they have a choice."

Muslim chaplain accused of mishandling documents returns home

By MELANTHIA MITCHELL
Associated Press Writer

SEATAC, Wash. (AP) — A Muslim chaplain formerly stationed at Fort Lewis has returned to Washington state for the first time since his arrest on accusations of mishandling classified information from the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Army Capt. James Yee was greeted Friday by his wife, Huda

Suboh; their 3-year-old daughter, Sarah; and about 15 other supporters when he arrived at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. They attended a welcoming party at a nearby hotel before heading to their home in Olympia.

"This is tremendous," Yee told supporters. "The support continues to be needed as the legal aspects of my situation are still ongoing and I still face some charges."

Yee, 35, is accused of mishan-

dling classified information — notes found by Customs officials when they searched him on Sept. 10 at the Jacksonville, Fla., airport.

He is also charged with disobeying an order, making a false statement, adultery and storing pornography on his government computer.

A preliminary hearing in Fort Benning, Ga., was postponed earlier this month until Jan. 19 to allow the Army time to determine whether documents requested by Yee's defense are classified.

Yee's attorneys say they want to see the documents taken from Yee as he returned from Guantanamo, where he worked with detainees captured during fighting in Afghanistan.

The defense has said the documents include two small notebooks, a typewritten page and a term paper on Syria that Yee wrote for a college course on international affairs.

Yee was investigated as part of an espionage probe at Guantanamo but was never charged with spying.

"I'm very, very happy and I hope all of this ends as soon as possible," Yee's wife said after a news conference. "I'm happy but there's still a lot ahead of us. It is a great, great test for us."

The family planned to celebrate daughter Sarah's fourth birthday this weekend.

Advocates contend the charges

against Yee are unfounded.

"We really feel that he is getting inequitable treatment because he is an American Muslim and a Chinese-American," said Samia El-Moslimany, a spokeswoman with the Council on American-Islamic Relations. "He is a career military man and his career has been completely damaged."

Yee's attorney, Eugene R. Fidell, characterized the case Friday as "a waste of time and effort."

"I think the military justice system would be a lot better off without this case," he said.

The lawyer said he considered the decision to grant Yee leave to see his family "a good sign."

Government officials have said they did not target Yee because of his ethnicity or religion.

Yee, a 1990 West Point graduate who left the military for four years to study Arabic and Islam in Syria, returned as a chaplain and counseled some of the Guantanamo prison's 660 detainees from more than 40 countries.

Yee noted he flew to Seattle from San Francisco, where he had visited an uncle and a cousin and had a chance to see the Golden Gate Bridge.

Seeing the bridge, he said, "was a symbol of bridging the gap, bridging people from all different cultures, from all different religions, from all different races. All of that has been apparent in this groundswell of support."



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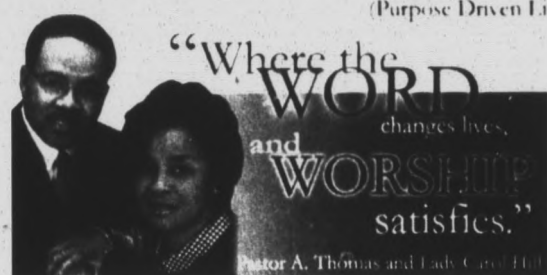
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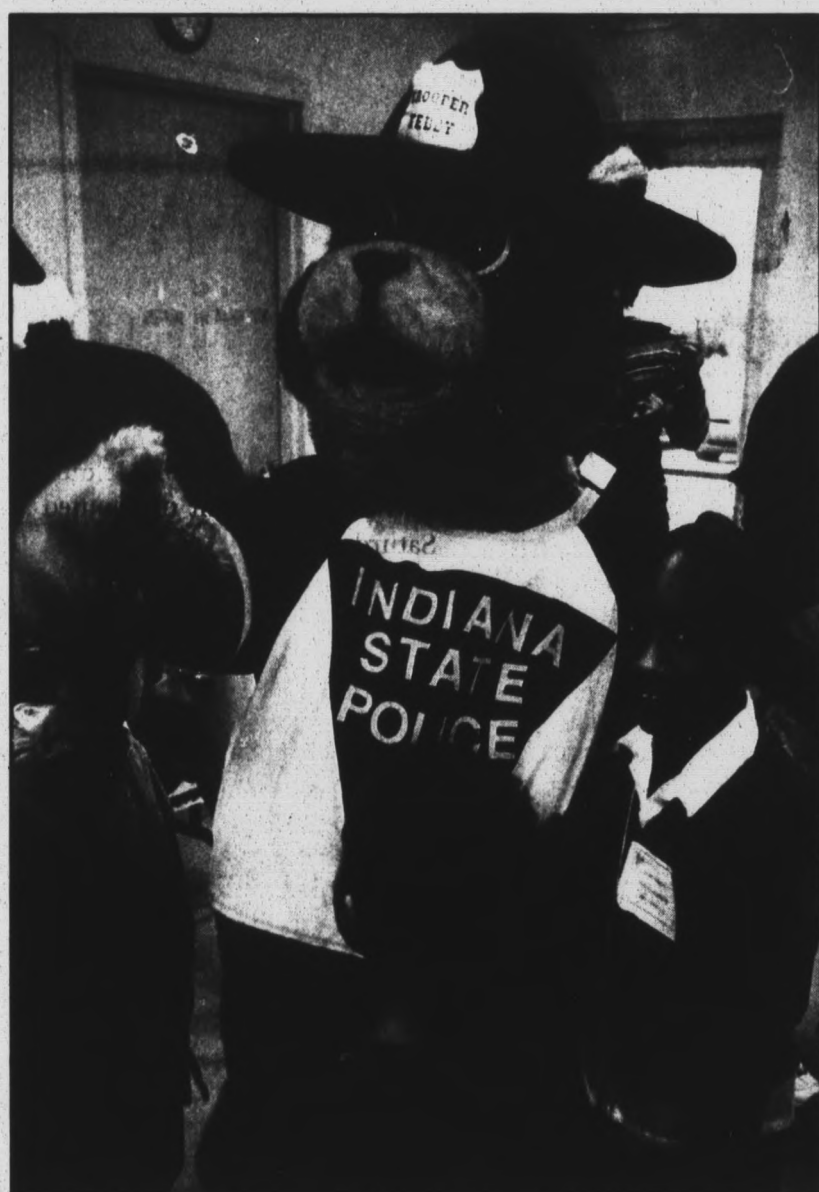
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Christmas at Covenant Community Church



Covenant Community Church held their annual "Christmas at Covenant" celebration in conjunction with the Interfaith Hospitality Network. The event is designed to bring holiday joy to area children. (Left) Joseph Thomas was one of many kids who had an opportunity to take a picture with Santa, who took time out of his busy schedule to visit Covenant Community Church.

Cute protection:
Alexis Johnson
(facing camera)
and friends had
fun spending
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These volunteers and members of Covenant Community Church helped to make their Christmas celebration a success.



Several young ladies demonstrated their talents during Covenant's event, which included a ballet recital. Front row (left to right) Kaylyn Hurley, daughter of Kevin and Lana Hurley; Tyra Rose Nibbs, daughter of Kevin and Tanqi Nibbs. Back row (left to right) are Alexis Johnson, daughter of Roderick and Keisha Johnson; Hannah Thomas, daughter of Joe and Judith Thomas; and Umi Scales, daughter of Darnae and Stacey Scales.

Mel Gibson's Jesus movie is an intensely personal vision

By **RICHARD N. OSTLING**
AP Religion Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It wasn't backed by a major studio and it won't even appear in theaters until Ash Wednesday, a full two months after Christmas. Yet Mel Gibson's engrossing epic "The Passion of the Christ" is already among the most-debated films of recent times and a major religious flashpoint.

Private viewings by select audiences in recent months — often including conservative clergy — have won the movie heartfelt praise.

The Rev. Billy Graham professed he was profoundly moved by Gibson's somber depiction of the last 12 hours of Jesus' life. An aide to Pope John Paul II said the pontiff felt the film accurately "shows how it was" as Jesus went through anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane, arrest, trial, torture and crucifixion on Golgotha.

Gibson told The Associated Press that "Passion" is indeed an attempt to capture what really happened, but also a product of years of meditation and a personal expression of faith.

"I had to make this film; I couldn't not make it," he said.

Some Jewish groups, however, have expressed outrage about the portrayal of Jews, fearing the movie might spark anti-Semitism. Some Christian scholars have joined their complaint.

A recent viewing of the film's nearly final cut showed why people are reacting so dramatically.

It is not just that the passion was filmed, although the story has

long been a delicate subject between Jews and Christians, and among Christians themselves. It's the elaborate rendering of Christ in agony that is at the core of the reactions.

Gibson's vision is intensely violent.

The depiction is close enough to the literal Gospel accounts to upset liberals, yet with imaginative additions that might trouble some biblical purists. While the film is not a collective attack upon Jews, the handling of some Jewish characters seems bound to spark still more protest.

Those who come to the movie without a strong religious background will be given plenty to ponder, and many will be sent scurrying back to the New Testament to compare the movie with the ancient Gospel texts.

They'll soon discover that the Bible is far more restrained than the gory Hollywood treatment.

Scripture discreetly states that Jesus was scourged, spat upon and struck on the head. But the Gospels provide no elaboration on the Romans' abuse of Jesus, which the movie turns into a meditation on human cruelty.

Jesus (Jim Caviezel) is savagely whipped by sadistic Roman soldiers wielding metal chains. Blood splatters and oozes. After the Nazarene is dragged away, mother Mary (Jewish actress Maia Morgenstern, daughter of a Holocaust survivor) stoically mops up the sacred blood from the pavement.

On Golgotha, Mary's face and robe are smeared with blood as she kisses Jesus' feet and cradles his corpse. This isn't

Michelangelo's pretty Pieta. In one non-biblical, gruesome touch, a bird pecks out the eyes of the bad thief crucified with Christ — nature's retribution for mocking Jesus.

Gibson, who directed, funded and co-scripted the film, explained in e-mail responses to AP questions that in those scenes, "I tried to make it as realistic as possible. I wanted the audience to feel like they were really there, witnessing the events as they had actually happened."

Yet the actor-director, often identified as a traditionalist Catholic, acknowledged that the film is "hugely personal. I saw other film versions and I couldn't understand them; I couldn't believe them."

What drove him to create this version was a spiritual crisis about 13 years ago. "I came to a difficult point in my life and meditating on Christ's sufferings, on his passion, got me through it," he said.

"Once I started meditating on the passion, really going deep into it in my own mind and heart, then I began to understand it, to believe: That's the version I put on film. ... The story, the way I envisioned the suffering of Christ, got inside me and started to grow, and it reached a point where I just had to tell it, to get it out."

Who was responsible for Jesus' death? The film's answer is everyone — in accord with the biblical teaching that Jesus died because of the sins of each individual ever born.

The movie says this from the very start, citing the traditional belief that the prophet Isaiah foretold redemption through the cross

("he was wounded for our transgressions").

In flashbacks, Jesus himself says "no man has greater love than this, that he lay down his life for his friends" and, at the Last Supper, "This is my blood, given for you and many for the forgiveness of sins."

As for the culprits directly involved in the crucifixion, the film features a shrouded, androgynous Satan, who is eerily omnipresent and rejoices mirthlessly when Jesus is finally dead. Judas fulfills his customary betrayal and hangs himself. Pilate orders the unjust execution and Roman troops gladly carry it out.

But what about the Jews? Liberal scholars interpret Jesus as a political martyr, whereas the Gospels, and "Passion," say the Jewish authorities judged him guilty of blasphemy for claiming to be the Messiah and Son of God and led their followers in urging execution.

While the script doesn't imply collective guilt for Jews as a people, there are villainous details that go beyond the Bible.

For instance, the Gospels report that Jewish temple guards at the Sanhedrin trial slapped, spat upon and struck Jesus. But in the dramatized "Passion," the guards

beat Jesus so severely that his right eye is swollen shut.

Pilate later chastises the grandly berobed chief priests: "You half-kill your prisoners before they are judged?"

Pilate, depicted as a Jesus sympathizer, cites the injuries in appealing to the priests to drop the charges. "Isn't it enough? Look at him," another addition to the Bible.

Also, the priests look on with impassive satisfaction during the bloody Roman scourging. The Bible doesn't say the priests witnessed this, though it does place them at the crucifixion as "Passion" does.

However, there are elements that might assuage some Jewish objections to the movie (Gibson opted not to answer questions on the subject).

Although the priest-led Jewish crowd is bloodthirsty, it does not shout the biblical sentence that has been used by anti-Semites and most upsets Jews: "His blood be on us and on our children!" (Matthew 27:25)

All those on Jesus' side were also Jewish, of course, and the film has some reminders. Above all, Gibson's unusual script in Aramaic and Hebrew (with English subtitles) underscores Jesus'

Semitic setting. Mary is heard reciting the Passover ritual. Simon of Cyrene, who helps Jesus bear the cross, is identified as Jewish.

Also, some Jewish elders denounce the Sanhedrin trial as a travesty. That point would have been driven home if the film had included the biblical scene where Sanhedrin members Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus bury Jesus.

Gibson reports that he did "an immense amount of reading" beyond the Gospels before getting behind the camera. He noted that experts disagreed about historical details, which he needed in order to flesh out the Gospel accounts.

"Since the experts canceled each other out, I was thrown back on my own resources to weigh the arguments and decide for myself," he said.

Gibson plans to add a few flashback scenes before release to underscore Jesus' teachings about love and forgiveness. In the end, he believes, his creation will be faithful to the Gospels.

"I hope it makes people think," he said. "I hope it makes them reflect. The movie is about faith, hope, love and forgiveness. If it stirs those things up in people, it will be a success."

Gary bishop removes monsignor over abuse during the 1960s

By **KEN KUSMER**
Associated Press Writer

A Roman Catholic priest has been removed from priestly ministry over sexual misconduct with a minor while he was assigned to the cathedral of the Gary Diocese more than 30 years ago.

Monsignor Don Grass admitted he committed the abuse, which occurred while he was an associate pastor at Holy Angels Cathedral in Gary in the late

1960s, Bishop Dale J. Melczek said in a statement distributed Saturday night.

"Monsignor Grass ... while manifestly repentant, admitted that the allegations were true," the statement said.

Grass, who was ordained in 1961, had been pastor of St. Mary Catholic Church in Crown Point 1983.

Telephone calls to the church went unanswered Saturday night, and Grass could not be reached

for comment. A spokesman for the diocese, Brian Olszewski, said he did not know where Grass has been staying since his removal this past week.

Grass's removal for sexual misconduct with a minor is the first in the four-county Gary Diocese since the clergy abuse scandal broke, Olszewski said. The spokesman said he was unaware of any similar removals previously in the diocese since it was formed in 1957.

The Sanctuary's annual dinner



Members of The Sanctuary Church recently gathered for their annual dinner at Roy G. Hoffman Park in Fishers. (Above) Rev. George D. Martin, senior pastor of The Sanctuary Church led the congregation's praise team in musical worship before the meal. (Right) Gospel vocalist Willa Martin appeared during the dinner. (Photos/C. Guynn)



MYLES

► Continued from Page B1

fact that "A Taste of Heaven" was actually recorded eight years ago does not diminish its quality and relevance to today's spiritual issues.

"It is out-and-out religious material, no doubt," he wrote. "But none of this should trouble any but the most insecure atheist, because the human passion, dignity and conviction in the singing should be enough to move the most world-weary listener."

In addition to touring much of the U.S. and parts of Great Britain as a rising gospel artist, Myles also worked a day job as a music teacher in the New Or-

leans public school system. Myles served as a surrogate parent and counselor to many youth who were trying to survive on the tough streets of one of America's most violent cities.

But tragedy struck on Oct. 11, 1998, when Myles, 40, was shot and killed during a robbery, just outside the French Quarter. Six thousand mourners viewed his open casket at the Municipal Auditorium in New Orleans, and 5,000 more attended a service at Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church, under the leadership of Myles' friend, Bishop Paul S. Morton.

Apparently, it wasn't in the

Lord's plan for Raymond Myles to receive several worldly honors such as a Stella Award, Dove Award or an appearance on the Bobby Jones Gospel Hour. But hopefully with this collection, the gospel community will remember the gem it lost five years ago. Although he's gone, Myles' praise is timeless and Sony has given him due honor with this release.

As fellow New Orleans legend, soul singer Aaron Neville stated in a recent interview, "Raymond was a great singer, a great person and a great spirit. He was on the brink of national fame, and was about to take his place with the immortals of our music."

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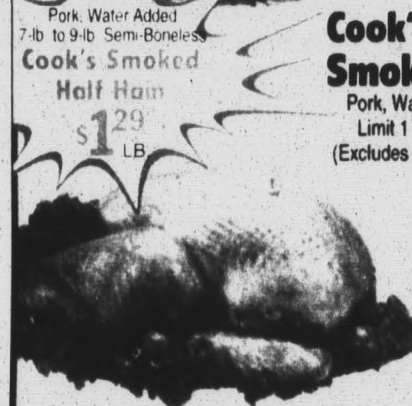
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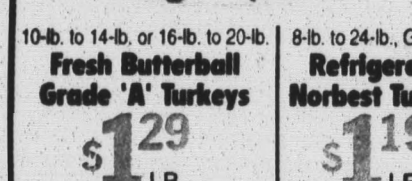
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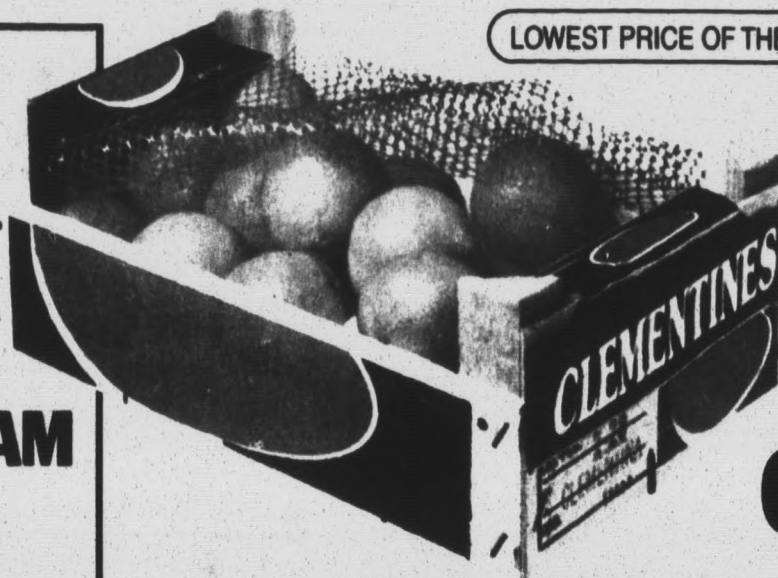
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Stokely's Vegetables



98¢
 20-oz. Perfection Soft 'N Good Wheat or White Bread

Perfection Soft 'N Good Wheat or White Bread



88¢
 12-oz. Brown 'N Serve Rolls

12-oz. Brown 'N Serve Rolls



88¢
 12-oz. Heinz Gravy

12-oz. Heinz Gravy



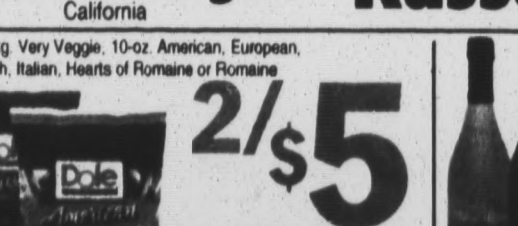
88¢
 8-oz. Kraft Regular, Extra Creamy, French Vanilla or Lite Whipped Topping

8-oz. Kraft Regular, Extra Creamy, French Vanilla or Lite Whipped Topping



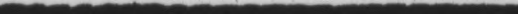
88¢
 12-oz. Fridge Pack 12-Pack Coke

12-oz. Fridge Pack 12-Pack Coke



1.98
 4-lb. Bag Navel Oranges

4-lb. Bag Navel Oranges



98¢
 4-lb. Celery

4-lb. Celery

2.88
 15-lb. Bag Idaho Russets

15-lb. Bag Idaho Russets

2.88
 750-ml Arbor Mist Wine or J. Roget Spumante

750-ml Arbor Mist Wine or J. Roget Spumante

2.88
 2/5 Dole Salad Blends

2/5 Dole Salad Blends

3.98
 34.5-oz. to 39-oz. Auto Drip, Auto Drip Special Roast, Breakfast Blend, French Roast or Gourmet Supreme Coffee

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To Your Health

FIT FOR LIVING

Help through the holidays

By **ANTHONY DAVIS**
For The Recorder



Dear A.D.: I've already made a commitment to get in better shape for the New Year. Can you give me tips on how I can get a head start through the holidays? How can I make it through all of the holiday parties without putting myself behind?
Teresa J.

Teresa, Congratulations on making your affirmation get in better shape. I'm sure it is very intimidating though to start a fitness regimen in the midst of all of the holiday festivities. My first tip is to relax. The holidays are meant to be enjoyed. Going to a few Christmas parties and enjoying a holiday feast or two during one month out of the year is not what puts people out of shape. It's what you do the other 11 months of the year.

Even those "elite" fitness model types and athletes make the most of the holidays and keep their great physiques. I asked a friend of mine, Jennifer Casetty (a national fitness competitor) what she does to get through the holidays.

"I usually am out of town for the holidays, so it is important to

► See **HOLIDAY**, Page C2

Pill provides emergency contraception

By **ERICKA C. WHEELER**
Staff Writer

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently announced that Plan B, also called the emergency contraceptive pill, may be available for nonprescription use in the near future.

The drug advisory committee voted last week 23-4 and concluded that Plan B may be coming to a drugstore shelf near you as early as late February.

"We will have a final decision in a couple of months," said FDA spokesperson Jason Brodsky.

In meeting notes, the board agreed that "Plan B is described to proposed CARE (Convenient Access Responsible Education) program intended to ensure the appropriate and responsible use of Plan B."

Don't get the morning after pill confused with Plan B. "Our competitor called Preven issued the morning after pill. We issue Plan B. Their drug consists of four pills and ours is only two," said Chrissy Faessen, spokesperson for the Women's Capital

Corp. official sponsors of Plan B. "If they want their drug to go over-the-counter, they will have to go through the same process with the FDA as we did."

Plan B makers say that their product is less likely to cause the side effects caused by their competitor.

Currently, you must be issued a Plan B pill at Planned Parenthood sites or by a family doctor, but in Washington, California, Alaska, New Mexico and Hawaii, you can obtain the pill from a pharmacist without a doctor's visit.

According to the advisory com-

mittee board, "Women's Capital Corp, the sponsor, proposes that expanded access to Plan B combined with a well defined marketing and educational program, will provide a fundamentally improved approach to satisfying an unmet medical need."

What is Plan B?

Plan B is an emergency contraception with a higher dosage of a birth control pill taken to delay ovulation and prevent fertilization.

"Plan B consists of only progesterin," said Faessen.

Upon engaging in unprotected sex, a female may take Plan B up

to 72 hours after sexual intercourse. Twelve hours later the women will take another pill.

Plan B can reduce pregnancy by 89 percent and is more effective the sooner the female takes it after intercourse.

Like with any other medication, side effects may occur including nausea, fatigue, headache, breast tenderness and menstrual cramps.

Plan B is not effective if a woman is already pregnant and may not terminate a pregnancy.

Plan B was approved by the FDA for sale in July 1999.

"We expect to see some results in early next year," said Faessen.



Health fair at Glendale Mall

Cindy Jedrzejak, a massage therapist at the Indiana College of Bodywork and Pain Treatment Center, Inc. gives Onita B. Arnold a free massage during the WTHR/Wishard Health Fair at Glendale Mall. Various health screenings were available at the fair as a way to detect conditions such as high blood pressure, heart disease and stroke early on. (Photo/J. Hurst)

Calculating the cost of diabetes

(NAPSI) — Diabetes affects a large and growing number of Americans, and experts believe it will pose an increasingly difficult public health challenge in the years ahead.

Many believe increased spending on new medicines for diabetes is grounds for hope - hope for patients whose lives are threatened by the disease and for a health care system that will have to care for people with this and other chronic diseases.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) "conservatively estimates that diabetes cases in the U.S. will increase 165 percent by 2050."

Diabetes can exact an enormous toll. The risk of death among people with diabetes is two times greater than for people without diabetes. Left untreated, diabetes can lead to complications such as blindness, kidney disease, nerve disease and amputations, as well as heart disease and stroke.

The direct medical costs related to diabetes have more than

doubled over the past 10 years, jumping from over \$45 billion in 1992 to nearly \$92 billion in 2002. The indirect economic burden of the disease through disability, work loss and premature death added another almost \$40 billion in 2002.

Progress against the disease, however, does not come cheap. Increased pharmaceutical spending is driven, in part, by the emergence of new medicines to treat the disease through new mechanisms of action. Some of these include:

- A compound that mimics the effects of a natural co-hormone that works with insulin to control blood glucose levels.

- A protein to promote increased insulin secretion when blood glucose levels are high, but not when they are normal.

- Inhaled forms of insulin.

- A compound that may modify the metabolism of fat cells and help treat diabetes-related obesity.

► See **DIABETES**, Page C2

Don't Let Tobacco Take Control of You

Submitted by the Health Education, Promotion and Training Department of the Marion County Health Department

28 percent of all residents smoke in Marion County. Approximately 36 percent African American men in Marion County report using tobacco products, while 28 percent of African American females who are 25-44 years old use tobacco products.

African Americans continue to suffer disproportionately from chronic and preventable disease compared to white Americans. Each year in the United States, approximately 45,000 African Americans die from a smoking-related preventable disease. Smoking and tobacco use are major contributors to the 3 leading causes of death in African Americans: heart disease, cancer and stroke.

A one-year national study found that three major African American publications—Ebony, Jet and — received proportionately higher profits from cigarette advertisements than other magazines. The tobacco industry attempts to maintain a positive image among African Americans by supporting cultural events and making contributions to minority higher education institutions, elected officials, civic and community organizations and scholarship programs.

Chemicals are added to tobacco for a variety of reasons.... better taste and smell, to form a vapor so the nicotine can be inhaled into a smoker's lungs, to increase the speed at which nicotine reaches the brain and to make the cigarette burn more evenly. Cigarette manufacturers deliberately add these chemicals to enable the smoker to tolerate toxic amounts of cigarette smoke. They were added without regard to the smoker's health and are to keep

smokers addicted.

Nicotine, one of more than 4,000 chemicals found in tobacco products including cigarettes, cigars and pipes, is the primary addictive ingredient that impacts the brain. Through inhaling, the average smoker takes in 1-2 milligrams of nicotine per cigarette. Nicotine can reach peak levels in the blood and brain rapidly. For example, cigarette smoking for example can reach the brain within 10 seconds of inhalation. Nicotine activates the brain's circuitry that regulates feelings of pleasure and reward.

Quitting any tobacco product can be done with a well thought out plan. This requires both mental and physical preparation. Many people try two or three times before they quit for permanently. Each time one tries to quit, the more likely they will be to succeed.

Now that you have read how chemicals and addictive properties are added to cigarettes, how the tobacco industry targets African Americans, how cigarettes cause cancer and disease and most of all how cigarettes kill, it's time for you to take action now:

1. Get ready

- Set a quit date and stick to it—not even a single puff!

2. Get support and encouragement

- Tell your family, friends and coworkers that you are quitting.
- Talk to your doctor or other health care providers.
- Get group, individual or telephone counseling.

3. Learn new skills and behaviors

- Change your routine when you first try to quit.
- Reduce stress.
- Distract yourself from the urge to smoke.
- Plan something enjoyable to do every day.
- Drink a lot of water.

4. Get medication and use it correctly

- Talk to your health care provider about which medications will work best for you.
- Bupropion SR (Wellbutrin or Zyban) - available by prescription only.
- Nicotine gum - available over-the-counter.
- Nicotine patch - available over-the-counter.
- Nicotine nasal spray - available by prescription only.
- Nicotine inhaler - available by prescription only.
- Use your medications as prescribed by your physician.

5. Be prepared for relapse or difficult situations

- Avoid alcohol.
- Be careful around other smokers.
- Improve your mood in ways other than smoking.
- Eat a healthy diet and stay active.

For more information about programs to help you quit contact Anne Privette at the Marion County Health Department 317-221-2084 or www.mchd.com

You can do it! Keep trying until you quit for good!

Marion County Health Department

2004 Smoking Cessation Group Programs

Make quitting smoking a priority for your health in 2004.

Call **317-221-2084** to register for any of these classes.

January 6, 13, 20, 27
Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
IMCPL** - Fountain Square Branch
1066 Virginia Ave., Indpls., IN 46203

February 4, 11, 18, 25
Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Tabernacle Presbyterian Church
418 E. 34th St., Indpls., IN 46205

February 4, 11, 18, 25
Wednesdays, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
MCHD* - South District Health Office
505 E. National Av., Indpls., IN 46227

March 8, 15, 22, 29
Mondays, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
IMCPL** - East Washington St. Branch
2822 E. Washington St., Indpls., IN 46201

April 8, 15, 22, 29
Thursdays, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Beech Grove Public Library
1102 Main St., Beech Grove, IN 46107

May 6, 13, 20, 27
Thursdays, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
IMCPL** - Eagle Branch 3325 Lowry Rd., Indpls., IN 46222

June 8, 15, 22, 29
Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Martin Luther King Multi Service Center
40 W. 40th St., Indpls., IN 46208

July 7, 14, 21, 28
Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
**IMCPL - College Branch
4180 N. College Ave., Indpls., IN 46205

September 8, 15, 22, 29
Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
**IMCPL - Pike Branch
6525 Zionsville Rd., Indpls., IN 46268

October 4, 11, 18, 25
Mondays, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center
1802 N. Illinois St., Indpls., IN 46202

November 9, 16, 23, 30
Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
**IMCPL - East 38th Street Branch
5420 East 38th Street, Indpls., IN 46218

*MCHD = Marion County Health Department
**IMCPL = Indianapolis Marion County Public Library

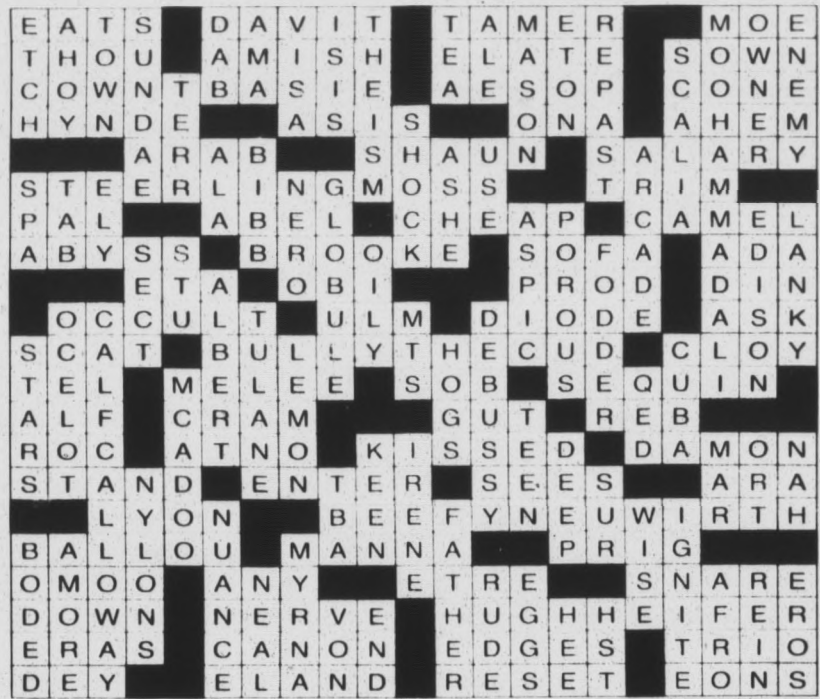
Go to **www.MCHD.com** for additional programs to help you quit.


NEW Smoking Cessation Support Group

Marion County now offers a smoking cessation support group. This support group meets the second and the fourth Tuesday of each month, from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., starting January 13th, 2004. This support group will meet at the Marion County Health Department, Hasbrook bldg. 1st floor conference room, 3838 N. Rural St., Indpls., IN 46205. The support group does not require advance registration and is free.



MARION COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
making a difference
www.mchd.com






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IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE
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Eye Works
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(317) 280-0114
Call to Schedule and Appointment or to order Contacts

Weight

Reduction & Management



Heart Disease

High Cholesterol

High Blood Pressure

Diabetes Mellitus

Ray Henderson, M.D.
Cardiovascular Disease & Internal Medicine

3231 N. Meridian Street Suite 600
317.923.2565

Families struggle with tough choices to pay for health

CINCINNATI (AP) — Middle-income families of chronically ill or disabled children are selling homes, cashing in retirement plans and depleting their savings to pay for rising costs of their children's care.

Many parents, faced with costs that can total hundreds of thousands of dollars a year, are considering divorce, bankruptcy or quitting their jobs to lower their incomes to get government aid, according to reports in a Cincinnati newspaper.

Don Jamison said he can divorce his wife or quit his job to qualify for government health care for his 13-year-old son Blake, or he can risk not getting the \$653,000 in medicine each year needed to treat his son's hemophilia.

"If I quit my job and lose everything, will my son be healthy? No," Jamison, 42, of rural Preble County in western Ohio, told the newspaper. "How does it help the government for us to go bankrupt? It's not right."

The difficult choices are coming at a time when state and local governments are cutting programs that once helped thousands. Spending on the Medicaid health care program for the disabled or poor jumped 40 percent in five years to \$228 billion nationwide, the newspaper said.

The paper said its analysis showed that in Ohio alone, just 25 of the most seriously ill people cost the state nearly \$18 million in 2001.

To offset those costs, Ohio this year reduced health care coverage to 5,000 middle-income kids with diabetes, cerebral palsy and other serious diseases. The state also made it more difficult to get nursing care and other help at home - turning down 73 percent of the 7,088 people who applied since 2001.

Many turned down were parents of severely ill or disabled children who had been waiting for months or even years.

Barb Edwards, director of the Ohio Medicaid program, said the decisions are heartbreaking but necessary.

"The reality is we have limited resources to deal with unlimited need," she said.

Penny Wyman, director of the Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies, said there is no money for services.

"Families have to break up just to get help for their sick child," Wyman said. "The social services system in Ohio is on its knees."

Jamison and his wife, Jennifer, thought the income from their two jobs would be sufficient for their family's needs. They never imagined they would need \$12,500 in drugs each week for their son.

When their private insurance was close to capping out in 2000, the Jamisons went to the county welfare office to apply for government aid and found that they didn't qualify. Their combined monthly income was \$4,641-well over the \$1,180 income limit.

"I can only look at income," says Pam Sarver, a referral specialist with the Preble County Job and Family Services Department, who saw the Jamisons. She said income rules force middle-income families to make terrible choices.

"They'll ask me, 'If I lose my job or get divorced, could I get help then?'" Sarver said. "And I say, 'Yes, you can.'"

Blake Jamison worries that his parents might divorce to qualify for help.

"I'm scared of losing my medicine," he said. "But I'm even more scared of losing one of them."

HOLIDAY

► Continued from Page C1

know what you have available to you as far as (healthy) food, exercise options, etc. I like to splurge a bit on the holidays, but try to maintain the balanced diet as much as possible while spending quality time with friends and family."

Here are a few other tips to be healthy through the holiday parties:

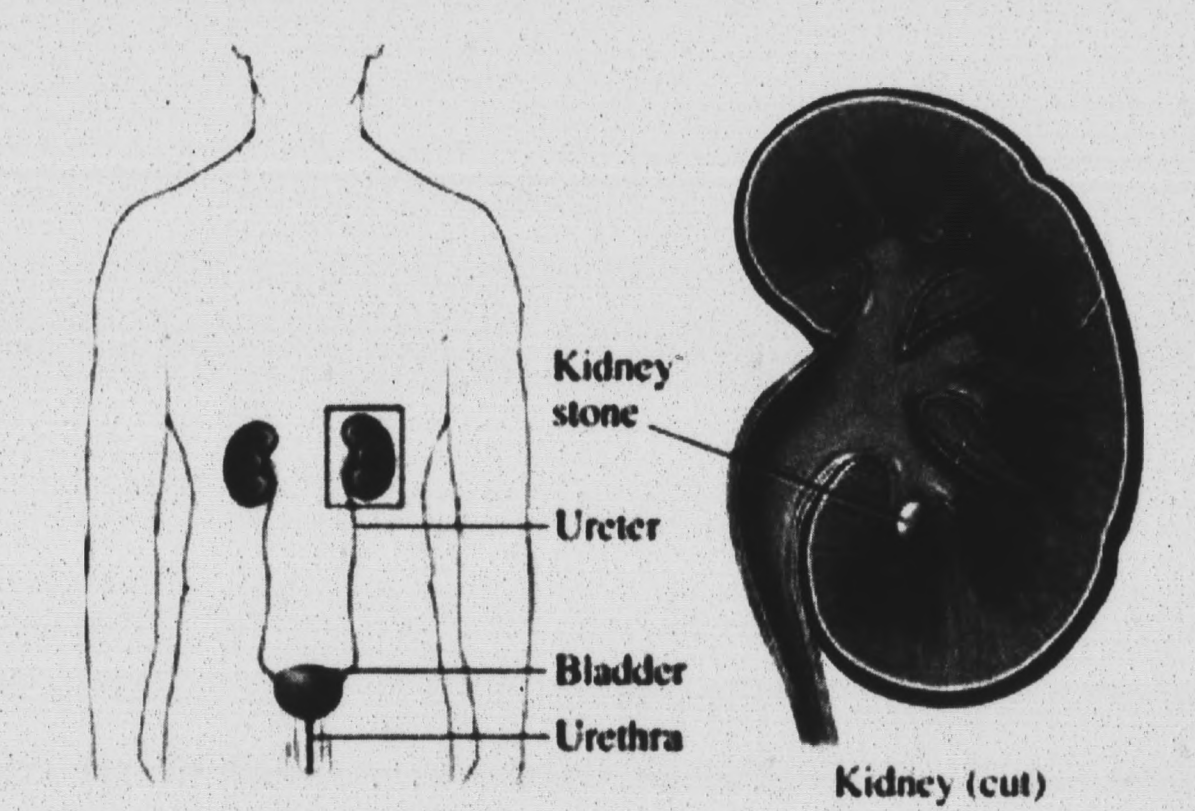
- **Eat before you go to the party.**
- It may be a good idea to have a light meal before you go to the party so you'll be less likely to eat as much.
- **Choose a small plate.**
- Use the smaller hors d'oeuvres plate instead of the normal size dinner plate. This may help you limit the portion size but still enjoy those delicious dishes.
- **Socialize**
- If you spend more time talking and laughing, you'll spend less time eating. Make the most of the holiday and truly enjoy the time spent with your family and friends.

Happy holidays!
Your trainer,
A.D.

Have a question for A.D.? Send it to fitforliving@echelonfit.com, or call (317) 592-9115. Anthony Davis is a Certified Personal Trainer with the American Council on Exercise. You can find more information about fitness and nutrition at www.echelonfit.com.

KIDNEY STONES

Avoiding the pain the 2nd time around



(NAPSI) — Prevention plays a leading role in the management of kidney stones. Each year, almost a million Americans are treated for kidney stones.

For many of these unlucky people, this is not their first experience with passing a stone. The problem comes when crystalized chemicals from the urine form a mass in the kidney, then try to follow the path of urine through the system.

The experience is painful - excruciatingly painful - to the point that most people want to do all that is necessary to avoid repeat stones. Lisa Rodriguez knows first hand. "I've passed four stones in seven years, including one while I was pregnant," she said.

Pain is usually the first symptom, although diagnosis usually involves urine and blood tests, X-rays and sound waves. Once the stone is found, the majority of them will pass naturally within three to six weeks, but some stones require outside help including surgery or extracorporeal shockwave lithotripsy. Both treatments work to break up the stone or to facilitate passage. Medical follow-up is important to prevent recurrence.

According to Dr. Glenn D. Preminger, professor of urologic surgery at the Duke University Medical Center and director of the Duke Comprehensive Kidney Stone Center in Durham, N.C., a large stone can block the flow of urine, causing pressure to build throughout the system, including in the kidneys. "Increased pressure results in stretching and irritation, which causes the pain," he said.

Beyond the acute pain in the abdomen that often shifts to the groin, other symptoms can include blood in the urine, fever, weakness, nausea and vomiting. Although kidney stones do not usually cause permanent damage, a blockage could lead to infection.

Like Lisa, patients frequently suffer multiple stone episodes that could be prevented with combination therapy.

Diet is part of the treatment. Not enough fluids and too much protein, salt and oxalate (found in spinach, nuts, and strawberries) can lead to the formation of additional stones. Lisa changed her diet, but with diet changes alone, many of those who pass stones still form new ones.

To prevent recurrence, studies have found that a potassium citrate treatment, such as Uroclit-K, administered following a kidney stone experience is highly effective," said Dr. Preminger. "Potassium citrate picks up where shock wave therapy leaves off, by restoring the natural chemicals that block the formation of stones. It reduces the tendency of calcium oxalate and uric acid to form stones and minimizes the chance of recurrence by more than 85 percent."

Rodriguez wishes she was treated for recurrence. "I'm still paying for the shock wave therapy I had years ago, but I'm still suffering from this condition, despite changing my diet."

Dr. Preminger suggests patients like Rodriguez ask their doctor for information about diagnostic tests and treatments to prevent the pain from returning. "Once you've lived through it, you don't want to live through it again," Rodriguez said.

More information can be found at <http://www.missionpharmaceutical.com/uroclitk/> and by asking a urologist about treatment options.

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HEALTH BRIEF

St. Francis gets 'jump' start on mini-marathon training

Indianapolis Life 500 Festival Mini-Marathon participants can jump start their training at the 17th annual St. Francis Hospital & Health Centers Jump the Gun event on Jan. 9. The event includes an approximate 1.1-mile fun run and walk held outside St. Francis Hospital's Indianapolis (South) campus, 8111 S. Emerson Ave.

The pre-event activities and the health fair begin at 5 p.m., and the fun run/walk starts at 6:20 p.m. Educational sessions on topics including nutrition, race fitness, training gear, Mini-Marathon logistics and more will be offered.

Because of an anticipated early Mini-Marathon sellout, the 500 Festival will hold a lottery for 200 Mini-Marathon entry slots at Jump the Gun. Even if the Mini-Marathon is sold out by Jan. 9, Jump the Gun attendees who register for the drawing will be eligible for those 200 spots. Mini-Marathon entry winners will be selected via a random drawing at Jump the Gun and must be present to win. They must also pay their Mini-Marathon entry fee at Jump the Gun.

DIABETES

► Continued from Page C1

- Dual-acting sensitizers that increase muscle cell uptake of blood sugar and inhibit the liver's production of blood sugars, as well as reduce blood lipid levels.

Large clinical studies have shown that "early and aggressive treatment of diabetes may delay or even prevent many of the complications associated with diabetes, leading to improved quality of life and reduced expenditures in patients with type 2 diabetes."

Increased spending on new medicines for diabetes is viewed as a positive development in light of the results-improved patient outcomes and reduced overall costs.

To learn more, visit the Web site at www.phrma.org.



The 10 worst films of 2003

By KAM WILLIAMS
For The Recorder

Never before has an actor or actress made three of the movies on my Annual 10 Worst List. Sure, there was a long stretch when crowd pleaser Sandra Bullock and kiss-of-death Will Ferrell would contribute one or two entries year in and year out. But then Bullock finally found the right vehicle in Miss Congeniality while Ferrell recently turned his career around with "Old School" and "Elf."

Cuba Gooding Jr. alone has remained the one thespian who can be counted on to churn out bomb after bomb. Cuba's stock has been plummeting since 1997 when he won the Best Supporting Actor Oscar for shouting "Show me the money!" in "Jerry Maguire." Some of Cuba's unwatchable flicks which have figured prominently on earlier 10 Worst Lists of mine, including "What Dreams May Come" (No. 1 in 1998) and "Instinct" (No. 6 in 1999).

It is no mean feat to enjoy an enduring career in the face of so many flops, for one must repeatedly con not only studio executives, casting directors, colleagues and other industry insiders, but also audiences, of course, to keep landing so many lead roles. Therefore, Cuba is to be saluted as much as he is lambasted for this year's improbable achievement.

Without further fanfare, here's the countdown to the very worst films of 2003.

(10) "Marci X"

Lisa Kudrow stars in the title role of this romantic comedy as a Jewish rap music mogul who falls for Damon Wayans as Dr. Snatchcatcher, a crotch-grabbing, foul-mouthed hip-hopper wearing pantyhose for a hat.

Wayans and Kudrow should sue their agents for attaching them to such an offensive, unfunny, insensitive, ill-fated project. This film made me feel like setting myself on fire in protest like a Buddhist monk. Only if you are a big fan of bad cinema, might "Marci X" be for you.

(9) "The Fighting Temptations"

What practical joker would even think of dooming this project from the start by pairing Beyoncé Knowles with Cuba Gooding Jr. as romantic leads in a romantic comedy? After all, the 22-year-old singer-turned-actress has got to be one of the hottest commodities around while the fatherly Cuba looks every bit of 35. Yet, somebody decided that Cuba and Beyoncé could play contemporaries.

Earlier this year, Gooding unleashed the walk-out-bad "Boat Trip," where he played a straight guy booked on an all-gay cruise by a vindictive travel agent. Still, he was able to generate more chemistry in bed with a flamboyant drag queen, there, than the sizzle he fails to find with Beyoncé in this dead-on arrival adventure. He spends most of the movie prancing about awkwardly, like a middle-aged goofball, while the sultry, retiring beauty could easily pass for a teen-ager. Two hours of torture.

(8) "From Justin to Kelly"

When Kelly Clarkson beat out Justin Guarini to land the title of

Snow Jam raises money for Christmas toys

By JOSHUA COHEN
Staff Writer

"You don't see a lot of young men these days who don't think about themselves," said Cecelia Whitfield, executive director and founder of Use What You've Got Ministry. "It's wonderful that a young man would even think about helping."

Tazae Hughes, promoter and head of Blades Entertainment, did just that. Hughes held his first "Snow Jam Benefit Concert," a family charity concert with rap artists, singers and musicians, on Dec. 20 at the House Café in Glendale Mall.

Hughes decided after two straight Christmases of being saddened from losses of friends and family, it was time for him to do something to make himself and others feel good.

"My best friend, Blades was his rap alias, died two years ago," said Hughes. He then lost his aunt, a niece and a cousin, and the holidays lost a lot of joy for him.

"I decided to help support the less fortunate," he explained. "I want to use our resources (in

Indianapolis) to help people."

"Charity is always good," said Big Dave, one of Hughes' premier artists on Blades. "More artists need to give back to the community. We ain't big time, but it never hurts to give back." The 21-year-old artist has been rapping since he was 7. He has known Hughes since the sixth grade and will be releasing an album on the label soon.

Hughes doesn't want to stop at just one event. He plans on holding different concerts in the future for the 25 and up crowd, college students and high school students.

"I want to display the talent we have, and I might as well give people something to do at the same time," said Hughes.

The benefit raised money and collected toy donations for the Julian Center, Password Community Mentoring and Use What You Got Ministry. There were approximately 85 to 100 people in attendance.

Other performers at the concert included Tierra G. who is on Pacers forward Ron Artest's label, KC, C.O.R.P. 1, KC, Lil' Kev and Athena.



(Above) Christian Rap group C.O.R.P. 1 performed during the first "Snow Jam Benefit Concert" at the House Café. (Right) Tazae Hughes, organizer of the event and founder of Blades Entertainment served as the emcee for the event which raised money and toys for children in Indianapolis. (Photo/J. Hurst and J. Cohen)

Studdard's 'Soulful' needs a lot more soul

By ERICKA P. THOMPSON
Staff Writer

Ruben Studdard almost went gold selling more than 416,000 copies of his debut album, "Soulful" during its first week out. Although he fell nearly 200,000 copies short than the first-week total of Clay Aiken's ("American Idol" runner-up) "Measure of a Man," Studdard tries to hold his own on the 14-track CD - unfortunately he doesn't.

There is no doubt that Studdard can sing; he didn't win the "American Idol" competition for nothing. But in order for him to have a great career, he must have an understanding of who he wants to be or at least a good support system to help him make the right choices. Studdard doesn't have either.

"Soulful" opens with the single, "Sorry 2004." I really enjoyed the song, the lyrics and the beat, and I thought I was in for a treat throughout the rest of the CD. I was wrong.

The ridiculously titled "No Ruben," is the second track and is a recount of Studdard's rise to fame. The song is pretty corny, but not as corny as "What Is Sexy" featuring Fat Joe.

Throughout the song, both 300-plus pound entertainers claim that they both are "so sexy" and Fat Joe says the song is the "big boys' anthem." Studdard sings that there is nothing like a big boy and he wants the girl he is singing for to come over and "get freaky." Answer me this: does that even sound like America's beloved Velvet Teddy Bear? I don't think so. It sounds like his record com-

pany is trying to make him into something he is not.

Studdard is at his best when singing ballads such as "Superstar" and "Flying Without Wings." When he is singing over hip-hop beats, it doesn't do his magnificent voice any justice.

"Soulful" is pretty disappointing, but when you have a rapper named Pretty Tony featured on a song, what do you expect?

It seems to me that the president of J Records and the executive producer of the album, Clive Davis, had 100 percent creative control because Studdard's personality is not shown anywhere on any of the songs.

Wait a minute, Studdard doesn't have a personality, that is why the CD is uninteresting and falls way too short of his talent.

IN THE ART SCENE



During the recent Gallery Reception for John Gentry, the honoree posed near one of his photographs titled "The Cadillac." The recent ceremony was held at First-Meridian Heights Presbyterian Church to honor his work. (Photo/J. Hurst)

Damning documentary reveals regrets of ex-secretary of defense

By KAM WILLIAMS
For The Recorder

Robert Strange McNamara grew up poor during the Great Depression of the 1930s, overcoming his humble roots to attend Harvard and later become president of the Ford Motor Co. But the brilliant wunderkind was fated to be remembered, for better or worse, as secretary of defense under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson.

He served from January 1961 till he resigned in a storm of controversy on Leap Day, Feb. 29 in 1968. During his tempestuous tenure, he was one of the key figures in both the Cuban missile crisis and, of course, the Vietnam War.

Errol Morris, the offbeat documentarist who has previously focused on such diverse subjects as pet cemeteries, electric chair design and wheelchair-bound physicist Stephen Hawking, somehow convinced the reclusive octogenarian to reminisce on camera for over 20 hours about his critical days in the White House. The net result of those interviews is the fascinating "The Fog of War: Eleven Lessons from the Life of Robert S. McNamara."

What makes the movie so compelling for anyone who was alive during the '60s is that the then tight-lipped hatchet man is finally opening up and mak-



Robert S. McNamara

ing some damning admissions, starting with an acknowledgement that he wasn't even qualified to head the Defense Department. He then proceeds to own up to many U.S. mistakes in Vietnam, which cost our soldiers and innocent civilians thousands of lives.

Obviously riddled with guilt and regret, McNamara stops short of accepting full responsibility for waging a war he knew to be unwinnable. Instead, he spreads the blame around, especially to hawkish Gen. Curtis LeMay who apparently was very eager to nuke Hanoi. Spliced into this frank remembrance are reams of revealing video and audio footage, much of it culled from confidential taped conversations with Presidents Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon.

McNamara's insights instantly bring to mind parallels between Vietnam and the country's cur-

rent predicament in Iraq, such as when he reflects wistfully, "I do not believe we should ever apply economic, political or military power unilaterally. If we had followed that rule in Vietnam, we wouldn't have been there."

Overall, he comes off almost as a pacifist, rather than as an architect of and apologist for the costly Vietnam conflict. Which is all the more reason to take heart the lesson offered by his sobering conclusion, "If we can't persuade nations with comparable values of the merits of our cause, then we had better re-examine our reasoning."

An Oscar-worthy documentary.

Review
The Fog of War
Excellent

★★★★(out of ★★★★★)

Rated PG-13 for images of war, death and destruction.

Actress sues Snoop Dogg and MTV over "nude" TV scene

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An actress has sued rapper Snoop Dogg and MTV over an episode of the television show "Doggy Fizzle Televizzle," in which she claimed she was unwittingly made to appear as if she were naked and engaging in sexual relations with another actor.

In the lawsuit, Doris Burns accuses Snoop Dogg, whose real name is Calvin Broadus, and MTV of breach of contract, fraud, invasion of privacy and defamation. She is seeking unspecified damages.

A spokeswoman for MTV, which produced and aired the



Rapper Snoop Dogg

show, said the company does not comment on pending litigation. Messages left for Snoop Dogg's attorney were not returned.

Burns alleges that during the filming of a scene for the sketch comedy show hosted by Snoop Dogg, the show's producers wanted it to appear that she was having sex with an actor playing her husband.

According to the suit, she refused. But she did agree to wear a tank top and underwear and hold the hand of the actor while sitting on the bed.

When the show aired Aug. 31, the episode looked very different because her torso and both actors' hands were blurred, according to the suit.

Attorneys general push Hollywood to cut down on smoking in movies

BALTIMORE (AP) — Attorneys general are encouraging Hollywood executives to reduce the amount of smoking in films, which they say can encourage young people to smoke.

The attorneys general from Connecticut, Utah and Vermont met in Los Angeles with directors and production executives from the seven major studios.

The meeting "was the first step in what I hope will be a continuing and important dialogue to prevent the deadly problem of youth smoking," said Maryland Attorney General J. Joseph Curran, who participated in the discussions by telephone.

Attorneys general from Maine and California also are urging Hollywood to reduce gratuitous smoking on the screen. Attorneys general previously met with Jack Valenti, president of the Motion Picture Association of America.

The attorneys general say they're concerned about recent studies showing that smoking continues to be glamorized in film and television and that cigarette brand names continue to be shown, despite a 1998



Uma Thurman in the movie "Pulp Fiction"

agreement that bars tobacco companies from paying to have their products on film.

Vermont Attorney General William Sorrell described the talks as "just the beginning of the dialogue."

"Our hope is not to restrict anyone's constitutional rights, but rather to let them know how great an impact they have on youth smoking rates in this country," Sorrell said in a teleconference call.

If film directors feel they must show smoking in movies, Sorrell said he hoped a system could be developed so parents would know when smoking is shown frequently in a movie.

Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal said he found "a very sympathetic ear" from the directors. "They understand the opportunity and the immense potential for good and for ill when it comes to children smoking."

Blues museum may try to get music exhibit

CLARKSDALE, Miss. (AP) — The board of directors of the Delta Blues Museum will decide by February whether to bring in a traveling collection of music memorabilia.

The exhibit, "Sweet Home Chicago: Big City Blues 1946-1966," would be the Clarksdale-based museum's largest traveling exhibit since it opened 24 years ago.

Board president Bill Gresham said the collection includes photographs, recordings, guitars, costumes, oral history interviews and interactive keyboards.

If board members approve a proposal to go after the exhibit, it would be on display from July 15 to Oct. 15 next year - the heart of the Delta's tourist season, Gresham said.

During that period are Clarksdale's Sunflower River Blues and Gospel Festival, the King Biscuit Blues Festival in Helena, Ark., and Greenville's Mississippi Delta Blues Festival.

It would cost about \$75,000 to bring the exhibit to Clarksdale. Museum Director Shelley Ritter said she would have to find a corporate sponsor.

Bill would ban some swear words from radio, TV

WASHINGTON (AP) — A California lawmaker wants to ban eight vulgar words from the airwaves after rock star Bono used one of them on live TV and federal regulators didn't take action.

Rep. Doug Ose, R-Sacramento, said he was amazed when the Federal Communications Commission refused to sanction television stations that showed the U2 frontman using an expletive at the Golden Globe Awards last January.

The FCC said Bono's comment

did not meet its definition of indecency or obscenity because it did not describe a sexual function.

"C'mon, give me a break," Ose said. "I don't think there's a parent in the country who wants to hear this stuff come out of their TV."

He introduced a bill last week that would punish television and radio broadcasters if they aired the eight words and phrases. The language of the bill, the Clean Airwaves Act, is far saltier than

Bono's comment.

"I regret you gotta be specific, but apparently there's somebody out at the FCC who needs that kind of direction," said Ose, who has two young children.

FCC spokesman David Fiske declined to comment.

The October decision on Bono's remark, issued by the FCC's enforcement bureau, is being reviewed by the five FCC commissioners after an appeal by the Parents Television Council, a Los Angeles-based watchdog group.

In a letter to the council, FCC Chairman Michael Powell wrote, "The commission is required to acknowledge that even repulsive speech is accorded protection under the First Amendment, and thus, must act carefully when considering possible action against allegedly indecent programming. ... Personally, I find use of the 'F' word on programming accessible to children reprehensible."

A First Amendment lawyer who represents radio stations said he agreed with Ose that the FCC

does not implement its indecency standards effectively. But he said it would be silly to give broadcasters a list of words that can't be on the air.

The lawyer, Robert Corn-Revere, said such an approach would impede legitimate newscasts, like National Public Radio's airing of profanity-laced wiretaps of mob boss John Gotti. The FCC refused to sanction NPR after complaints from a listener who heard one of those broadcasts in 1989.

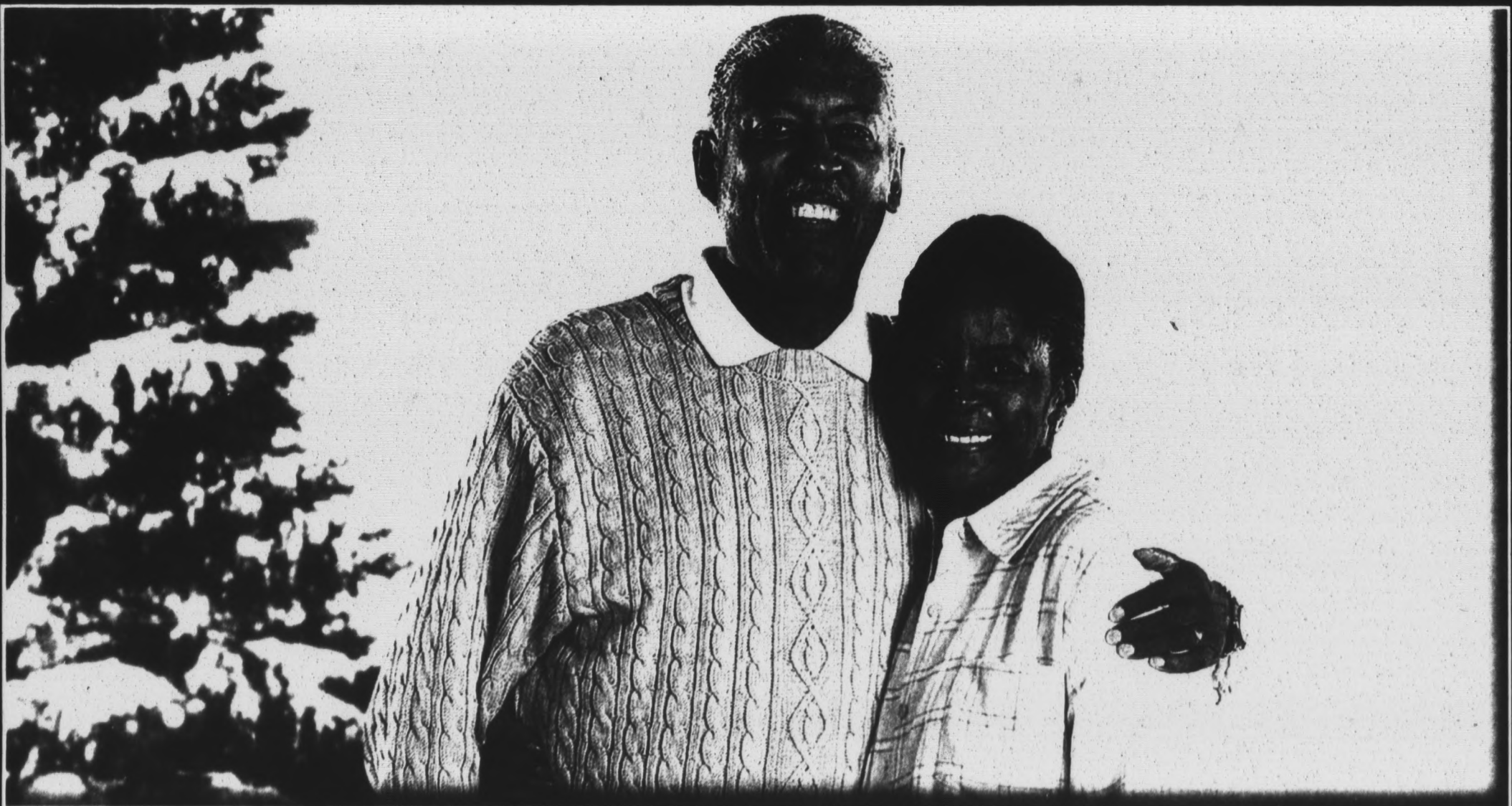
"There's no conceivable way

that an approach like that could survive constitutional review," Corn-Revere said. "This is one of the reasons why radios and televisions have on-off switches."

During the Golden Globes, Bono said, "This is really, really f--- brilliant."

"I don't think you can have the FCC saying f---'s OK as long as it's not used as a verb. There's something wrong with that," said Lara Mahaney, the parent group's director of corporate and entertainment affairs.

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LOTTERY

WORST

► Continued from Page C3

"American Idol" on the Fox-TV reality show, it looked like the sky was the limit for these overnight sensations. However, judging from this frightening flick, it seems that the pair have already found their limit, acting. For the wooden Justin fails to project his voice when he speaks, exhibits no range in emotion and moves like a marionette on strings.

In every scene, the curly-locked heartthrob grimaces with a half-frozen face, lumbers across sets Frankenstein-stiff, sporting that same indelible, substance-eating grin he wears on his face whenever he sang on TV. The big screen is no friend to Kelly either, who simply has the wrong shape to squeeze into bikinis or other skimpy outfits. Another concern is that the romantic comedy never captures even one iota of chemistry between its co-stars.

(7) "Mambo Italiano"

What kind of idiot is Emile Gaudreault taking us for? Gaudreault is the writer and director of "Mambo Italiano," the most insultingly flagrant, unapologetic ripoff of another movie I've ever seen. For "Mambo" is so similar to "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" that this homosexual-themed carbon copy ought to be titled "My Big Fat Gay Comedy." At the very least, it should have credited Nia Vardalos, since she created and starred in the original, which was based on a play written about her own life.

To give you an idea of exactly how uncreative Gaudreault is, he even made his protagonist a travel agent, which is the same profession of Nia's character in "Greek Wedding." And the actors playing his parents were obviously picked because they favored Nia's parents in "Greek Wedding." Worse, they are also overprotective immigrants who trade in the same sort of Old World sentiments. Spare me.

(6) "Radio"

Sometimes, a well-intentioned movie is so obvious in its attempt to manipulate you to tears with a syrupy storyline, that its audience gets turned off way before any meaningful message gets a chance to be delivered. Such is the case with "Radio," a lost cause with the incomparable (for better or worse) Cuba Gooding Jr. in the title role. Something awful often happens with a project so consciously calculated to cram in all the right ingredients for an uplifting experience.

As a result, "Radio" is so overdone with sentiment from start to finish that the plot is rendered utterly irreverent. This true story was transformed into the most paternalistically racist screen saga in eons. The mute, illiterate, snaggle-toothed Radio is reduced to such an underdeveloped, dehumanized caricature that he is too incomplete to be anything more than pitied.

(5) "Dumb and Dumberer"

Why would anybody bother to make a sequel to a Jim Carrey vehicle without Jim Carrey? This politically-incorrect prequel compounds matters by making the fatal mistake of being mean spirited without ever being funny. Every single one of the jokes falls flat, whether resurrecting insulting ethnic stereotypes, taking cheap shots at the expense of the mentally and physically challenged, confusing cursing with comedy or exhibiting an infantile obsession with bodily functions.

(4) "Bulletproof Monk"

Once a year, I encounter a film that's so bad it's good, in a perverse sort of way. In 2003, that film was "Bulletproof Monk," an inadvertently comical action adventure. The problems start with the ill-advised pairing of martial arts star Chow Yun Fat and teen heartthrob Seann William Scott as buddies. For the unintelligible Fat's diction is so awful, I burst out laughing as his very serious character pretended to be enlightening the sneering Scott's by spouting a series of Eastern obviousisms.

Worse than the terrible acting, is the Swiss cheese storyline, with gaps so huge, I couldn't relate the plot even if I wanted to. First-time director Paul Hunter seizes on any excuse for a gratuitous indulgence in sado-masochistic imagery involving water torture, tranquilizer darts, death-defying

leaps, electrical shocks, gunplay, martial arts, car chases and explosions.

(3) "The Cat in the Hat"

Picture Austin Powers in a cat costume making off-color comments to a couple of cute kids, and you have a decent idea of what to expect of "The Cat in the Hat." The late Dr. Seuss must be rotating in his grave like an electron gyroscope after such an undignified screen version of his beloved children's classic was foisted on the unsuspecting public.

The 220-word children's classic was adapted into a foul-mouthed Mike Myers vehicle which exhibits an utter disdain for the tenor and tone of the source material. The upshot is a film most inappropriate for impressionable young minds, as it trades in the clichés of your typical, gross-out teensploit: bodily function jokes, profanity, double entendres and ethnic humor.

(2) "Gigli"

Ben Affleck has looked far more comfortable on screen with childhood pal Matt Damon than he does opposite J-Lo, here. And the pop diva herself has managed to generate more chemistry getting her groove on in music videos with guys who may not even like girls than she does with her former fiancée.

Ben-Lo, who won his Oscar for co-writing "Good Will Hunting," could not have possibly examined "Gigli's" inane script before signing on to this doomed project. For his character's gratuitously cruel dialogue has him mercilessly berating a brain-damaged young man with cringe-inducing lines like, "Eat your food, stupid!"

Without a redeeming feature to its credit, "Gigli" has well earned the universal pile of scorn already heaped upon it. This \$54 million money-burning party misfires on all cylinders, from its implausible plot to its claustrophobic cinematography to its Edward Scissorhands editing job to its pervasive use of profanity.

(1) "Boat Trip"

It's finally Cuba's year, after an overabundance of forgettable roles since he won the Oscar. This sinking ship may as well have been called The Gay Titanic, for it has Cuba dressing in drag and cracks homophobic jokes, while mugging embarrassingly for the camera. Insulting to everyone's intelligence, "Boat Trip" is a one-trick pony which tries to milk the "I'm not gay" theme for about 90 minutes too long for a 93 minute movie.

Cuba plays Jerry, a straight guy who gets booked on a gay singles' cruise by a vindictive travel agent. Of course, it isn't long before our confirmed hetero is approached by an array of flamboyant queens desperate to tempt him to the homosexual side of life. Unfortunately, the overindulgence in gay-bashing doesn't end when Jerry gets himself a girl. I never chuckled even once since Cuba looks way too comfortable as a transvestite.

P. Diddy to star in revival of 'Raisin in the Sun'



Sean "P. Diddy" Combs
Electronic Urban Report

How many hats can one man carry? Recording artist, record producer, restaurateur, fashion mogul and now Broadway actor.

Sean "P. Diddy" Combs will make his Broadway debut this spring in a revival of the classic Lorraine Hansberry drama "A Raisin in the Sun."

A spokesman for the show confirmed the casting first reported by the New York Post. As Playbill Online first revealed on Dec. 15, the production will begin previews March 21 with an official opening scheduled for April 18.

Combs will play the lead role of Walter Lee, which was originated on Broadway by Sidney Poitier, who later reprised his role on film. Kenny Leon will direct a cast that may also include three-time Tony Award winner Audra McDonald. McDonald, the Post says, has been offered

the role of Lee's wife Ruth.

David Binder, who is producing the revival, told the New York daily, "Most big stars won't audition at all, but Sean was exactly the opposite. He had to jump through a lot of hoops. He auditioned for the director, the casting director and the agent for the (Hansberry) estate. Everybody was incredibly impressed by his professionalism and preparation." Combs has appeared in the films "Made," "Monster's Ball" and "Death of a Dynasty."



Darryl Bell and Kadeem Harrison

Combs joins a seasoned roster of rap artists who have graced the stage. Mos Def impressed critics in the Broadway production of Suzan-Lori Parks' "Topdog/Underdog," and later won an Obie Award for his Off-Broadway work in Parks' "F**king A." And several seasons back, Heavy D appeared in Laurence Fishburne's Off-Broadway drama "Riff Raff."

Darryl Bell is alive and well

Former "A Different World" star Darryl Bell is not dead. Despite what you may have heard, the actor is alive and well and living in Los Angeles.

Apparently the story started when gossip maven Flo Anthony reported Bell's death on her syndicated gossip report on Dec. 17.

Anthony ran with the story after being contacted by a colleague who was informed of Bell's alleged death by a relative claiming the actor died from a heart attack.

Shortly afterwards, Bell phoned Anthony himself to say he wasn't dead. Anthony retracted the story on her radio show and apologized for any confusion.

In addition to starring as the worrisome Ron Johnson on "A Different World," Bell also starred on the controversial sitcom "Homeboys in Outer Space," and recently voiced the character of Bravo Leader in "X-Men 2: Wolverine's Revenge."

Ruben Studdard's CD soars to top

The American Teddy Bear, Ruben Studdard, has hit it big with the release of his new album "Soulful." The reigning "American Idol" champ opened on top of the album chart by selling more than 416,000 copies, according to Nielsen SoundScan numbers released last week.

The defeat he experienced with his debut single falling short to his "American Idol" competitor Clay Aiken ca-



Ruben Studdard

now be moderately soothed.

Aiken, who finished behind Studdard on the show by less than 1 percent of the vote, bested Studdard in a head-to-head duel in June on the single chart, selling 393,000 copies to Studdard's 286,000, reports E! Online. And Aiken set the mark last month for "American Idol" participants with his debut album, "Measure of a Man," which moved 613,000 first-week copies.

The Studdard-Aiken sales are a sharp contrast to those of their predecessors. Inaugural "Idol" champ Kelly Clarkson debuted at No. 1 with 279,000 copies of "Thankful" in April, while her runner-up, Justin Guarini, debuted at 20 with just 57,000 copies of his self-titled disc last June. Clarkson's "Thankful" currently sits at No. 92 in its 35th week, while Justin Guarini is long gone from the charts entirely and he has reportedly been dumped by his record label.

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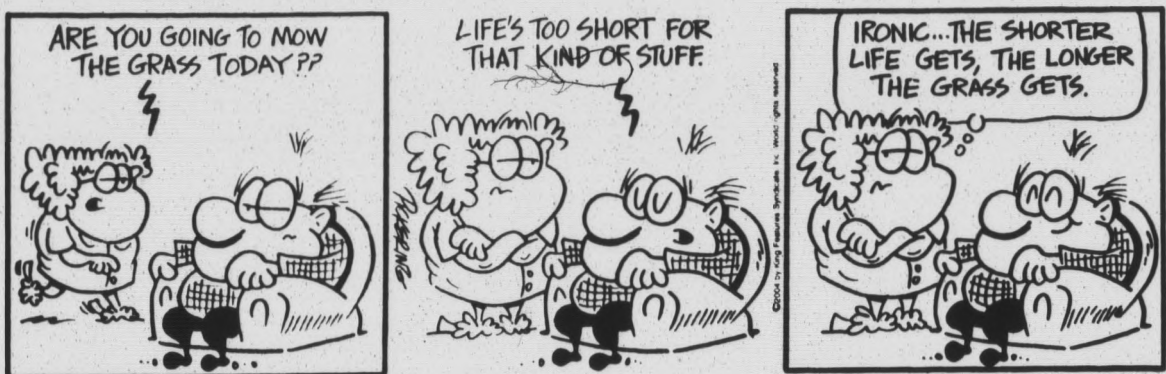
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MAMA'S BOYZ by JERRY CRAFT



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OUT ON A LIMB by GARY KOPERVAS



Super Crossword

BOVINES

ACROSS

1 Enjoys an enchilada

5 Cargo crane

10 Circus employee

15 Hilarious Howard

18 What you uses to be

19 Mennonite group

20 Cheer

21 Planted

22 Bovine jazzman?

24 Famed 'abulist

25 Geometric figure

26 Chnissie of The Pretenders

27 Warts and all

29 Actress Munson

30 May I interrupt?

31 Certain Semite

34 Rocker Cassidy

37 Pay

39 Bovine auto racer?

44 F.T.

45 Crony

46 Director Ferrara

47 Rock's Trick

50 Yellowish brown

53 Chasm

56 Adams or Astor

58 Couch

60 Maris of 'Nurses'

61 LAX letters

63 Kimono closer

64 Jab

65 Noisy racket

66 Mystical

69 German city

71 Electronic device

72 Say please

73 'Beat it'

74 Bovine outlaw?

77 Satiat

78 -- Aviv

79 Free-for-all

80 Word with sister or story

81 Costume sparkler

83 Actor Kjellin

84 Learn fast?

85 Spare tire

87 Johnny Yuma for one

88 Mythical bird

89 Periodic table abbr

90 Gave someone a smack

93 Winter Runyon

97 Rise

99 Go in

101 Beribids

103 Southern constellation

104 Sue of 'Lolita'

106 Bovine actress?

110 'Cat --' (65 film)

112 Exodus edible

113 Prudish one

114 Melville work

115 -- Day Now' (62 hit)

117 To be, to Baudelaire

120 Entangle

124 Puzzle direction

125 Chutzpah

128 Bovine publisher?

131 Ages

132 Church law

133 Brinks

134 Banana-rama, e.g.

135 Actress Susan

136 Endangered animal

137 Adjust a watch

138 Time to evolve?

DOWN

1 Decorate glass

2 Nautical cry

3 Wilder's 'Our --'

4 Dairy treat

5 Smidgen

6 Internists' org.

7 Jet-setter's need

8 Egyptian deity

9 Religious belief

10 Bristol brew

11 Bristol brew

12 Jocular Jackie

13 School founded in 1440

14 Meal

15 Bovine boxer?

16 Proprietor

17 -- Mine' (85 film)

21 Justice Antonin

23 St-to-be

26 Astound

32 Chicken -- king

33 Iceberg's kin

35 '68 US Open winner

36 Exploit

38 Small mail

39 Hydro-therapy site

40 Actor Hunter

41 TV Tarzan

42 Franco of 'Camelot'

43 Drop

48 Salad type

49 Sponge-like inventor?

52 Like Lincoln

54 Splinter group

55 Alphabet sequence

57 Ingratulating

59 Silo stuff

62 Victoria's husband

66 It's spotted at zoos

67 Bovine band-leader?

68 Louisiana university

70 Geographical abbr.

71 'Clair de Lune' composer

73 Celebrities

75 Car bomb?

76 Grabs all the goodies

77 Neighbor of Hispaniola

79 Bob of basketball

82 Proof letters

86 Rock hound?

90 Eager

91 Castle or Cara

92 'How -- is Your Love' (77 hit)

94 Deface

95 Supper scrap

96 Slangy denial

98 Stockings

100 TV listing abbr.

102 Big --, CA

105 Shade of meaning

107 Ecclesiastical title

108 Sage

109 Put the match to

110 Portended

111 'That's --' (53 tune)

112 Loy or Blyth

116 'A Face in the Crowd' actress

118 Discourteous

119 They're often beaten

121 Curly coil

122 Equine accessory

123 Aphrodite's son

126 -- Ryan's Express' (65 film)

127 Remnant

129 TV's -- 'Haw'

130 Presidential monogram

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

Eiteljorg Museum achieves accreditation

The Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art has achieved the highest recognition for a museum - accreditation by the American Association of Museums (AAM). AAM accreditation signifies excellence within the museum community. It is a seal of approval and strengthens individual museums and the entire field by promoting ethical and professional practices.

Of the nation's nearly 16,000 museums, approximately 750 are currently accredited. The Eiteljorg is one of only 18 museums accredited in Indiana.

Brazilian Carnival 2004

On Feb. 13, Ambassadors for Children will present Brazilian Carnival 2004, an evening filled with the sights and sounds of Brazil, including beautiful Brazilian dancers in costume, authentic Brazilian and Samba lessons for all to benefit the organization.

The event will be held at Union Station Grand Hall from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. and will feature Chicago Samba, a band from Chicago, heavy hors d'oeuvres, dancing and more. Tickets are \$150 per person. Attire is black tie or carnival attire.

Ambassadors for Children is a not-for-profit organization that offers opportunities for global humanitarianism to individuals and families through Ambassador Travel Club.

To purchase tickets, call (317) 248-8102 or 800-291-CLUB.

DOWNTOWN EVENTS

Dec. 27 and 29 Indiana Pacers Conseco Fieldhouse Various times \$10 - \$96

Cheer on the Pacers as they use the home court advantage against the New Jersey Nets Saturday and the Memphis Grizzlies Monday.

Dec. 30 Trans Siberian Orchestra Murat Centre 7:30 p.m. \$27.50 - \$37.50

Still have the Christmas spirit? Come enjoy the Trans Siberian Orchestra as it performs favorite holiday tunes and more.

Dec. 31 Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's New Year's Eve Celebration Hilbert Circle Theatre 7 and 10 p.m. \$30 - \$70 (7 p.m. show); \$35 - \$85 (10 p.m. show)

Party your way into 2004 with conductor Jack Everly and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra.

Dec. 31 New Year's Eve at the Rathskeller Rathskeller at the Ath-

Dec. 31 Family New Year's Eve Celebration

enacum 6 p.m. \$40 per person

Ring in the New Year with hors d'oeuve buffet, live entertainment from Polka Boys and the Kim Archer Band, party favors and champagne at midnight.

Indiana State Museum 6:30 - 9 p.m. \$10; \$5 members

Celebrate with the live band Dog Talk, confetti cannons, balloons and other surprises as the countdown to the New Year takes place at 8 p.m.

Dec. 31 Indianapolis Power & Light Presents Zoo Year's Eve Indianapolis Zoo 5 - 9 p.m. \$12; \$8 in advance; \$10 members; \$6 members in advance; \$8 children

Zoo Year's Eve presented by Indianapolis Power & Light promises to entertain the family with free train and carousel rides, festive DJ music, stilt walkers, jugglers, a bounce house and much more.

Everyone here at the Indianapolis Recorder would like to wish you and yours happy holidays!

An Indianapolis Recorder subscription makes an excellent gift this holiday season. Call 924-5143 to purchase one for a friend or family member today!

Answers on Page C2

NCNW Founder's Day



The Indianapolis chapter of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) recently held their 67th Founder's Day Celebration at Oasis of Hope Baptist Church. Katherine Blane (far left), first vice president of the NCNW Indianapolis section and Rosalynn West (far right), section president presented Debra Cooper and Brenda Roper with the organization's Bethune-Height-Clay Community Service Award. (Photo/C. Guynn)

IHA 'End of Year Celebration'



The Indianapolis Housing Agency (IHA) hosted their "End of Year Celebration" in the Dolphin Gallery located at the Indianapolis Zoo. (Above left) attendees enjoyed dancing and music. (Above right) IHA staff member Pam Morrison prepared her special present for the gift exchange. (Photos/C. Guynn)



Serving the Salvation Army

Volunteers Amber Brown (left) and Jasmine Conners served as bell ringers for the Salvation Army as a giver placed his gift in the bucket. The two young ladies were assigned to Lafayette Square Mall. (Photo/J. Hurst)

Flanner House Guild



The Annual Flanner House Guild recently took place at Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre. Helen Clay (sitting center), president of the Flanner House Guild, is surrounded by guild members. (Photo/C. Guynn)

BRING IN

NEW YEARS

WITH

HOT 96.3 BLAZING

RAMADA INN SOUTH

CHAMPAGNE TOAST

9PM-4AM

VIP ROOM

INDOOR SWIMMING POOL

IMC WDNI - 65 TV Indpls. (Cable Channel 99) Program Schedule December 2003

TIME	SUN DEC.	MON DEC.	TUE DEC.	WED DEC.	THU DEC.	FRI DEC.	SAT DEC.	TIME
12:00am								12:00am
12:30am								12:30am
1:00am								1:00am
1:30am								1:30am
2:00am								2:00am
2:30am								2:30am
3:00am								3:00am
3:30am								3:30am
4:00am								4:00am
4:30am								4:30am
5:00am								5:00am
5:30am								5:30am
6:00am	IMC						World of Shop	6:00am
6:30am	Kingdom Builders						Home Shopper	6:30am
7:00am	Harding St. Ch.						Direct Shopping	7:00am
7:30am	St. Lukes Church						Shop Showcase	7:30am
8:00am	Mt. Zion						The Amos Brown Show	8:00am
8:30am	Prophet 3H							8:30am
9:00am	The Word & More						Living for the City	9:00am
9:30am	Rock Community						Am. Black Forum	9:30am
10:00am	Revival Temple	The Amos Brown Show	The Amos Brown Show	The Amos Brown Show	The Amos Brown Show	R.O.A.R. Recorder On Air Report	Indy's Music Channel	10:00am
10:30am	Friendship Mission	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	10:30am
11:00am	IMC Gospel Showcase	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	11:00am
11:30am	IMC Gospel Showcase	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	11:30am
12:00pm	IMC Gospel Showcase	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	12:00pm
12:30pm	IMC Gospel Showcase	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	12:30pm
1:00pm	IMC Gospel Showcase	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	1:00pm
1:30pm	Prophet 3H	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	1:30pm
2:00pm	Shop Showcase	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	2:00pm
2:30pm	R.O.A.R. Recorder On Air Report	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	2:30pm
3:00pm	Prophet 3H							3:00pm
3:30pm	Direct Shopping							3:30pm
4:00pm	Gtr. One Way							4:00pm
4:30pm	The Word & More							4:30pm
5:00pm	Friendship Mission							5:00pm
5:30pm	Prophet 3H							5:30pm
6:00pm	Revival Temple							6:00pm
6:30pm	Direct Shopping							6:30pm
7:00pm	Kingdom Builders							7:00pm
7:30pm	Word & More							7:30pm
8:00pm	Search For Truth							8:00pm
8:30pm	Rock Church							8:30pm
9:00pm	Revival Temple	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	9:00pm
9:30pm	Harding St. Church	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	9:30pm
10:00pm	Mt. Zion	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	10:00pm
10:30pm	Prophet 3H	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	Indy's Music Channel	10:30pm
11:00pm								11:00pm
11:30pm								11:30pm

For more detailed program information contact Dan McNeal (317) 266-9600

People & Trends

C SECTION
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2003

PARENTING TIPS FROM THE DESK OF JADA

MEDITATION CAN BRING NEW MOTHERS PEACE OF MIND

(FeatureSource) — Postpartum depression affects nearly 20 percent of new mothers. It usually occurs in the first two weeks to six months after the baby is born. One way to

prevent postpartum depression is to focus on the positives of being a new mother.

"It's important that new mothers don't

become overwhelmed and lose the excitement of the child's birth amidst all the stress of having a baby," says Ellen Sue Stern, author of *Reflections for New Mothers* (Meadowbrook Press). "After giving birth many mothers experience anxiety and low self-esteem. They may lack confidence in their parenting ability. One way to overcome these feelings of inadequacy is through meditation."

Here are a couple of meditation reflections, followed by affirmations that Stern offers in her book.

Emotions

Awed. Overwhelmed.

Flooded with tenderness that you never imagined. None of these words entirely describes the waves of emotion you feel as you cradle your baby in your arms. Such deep and boundless love. Such passionate commitment. And so much at stake.

Although you may tell your child how much you love him every day for the rest of your life, it's impossible to convey completely the pure emotional intensity experienced in the early weeks of motherhood. Invest in a journal and try to express your feelings now, while they're fresh. Or write a letter to your child, one that will serve as a keepsake of the first precious days of your life together.

Affirmation: I love you more than words can say.

Personal growth

You're not born with the feelings or the skills that are necessary to be a good mother. You have years—in fact, your whole lifetime—to become a better, more effective parent. You learn from your mistakes, from reading and talking to parents, and mostly from spending time getting to know your child. As you come to know your child—what each cry means, her likes and dislikes, her idiosyncrasies—you get better and better at giving her what she needs.

And as your skills grow, so does your love. With each passing year your child becomes dearer and dearer to you, and you become more confident in your ability to nurture and guide. You're already a better parent than you were two weeks ago. And you'll be a better parent two months from now and two years from now. But that is only if you are willing to grow on the job.

Affirmation: I have the rest of my life to become the parent I want to be.

Community organizations and businesses give for the holidays



Members of Indianapolis' Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity recently hosted a Christmas give-a-way at the Indianapolis Urban League. Polemarch Andy Crowe (front left) and other members of the fraternity pose with Edward and Vanessa Newsom, who received a turkey and other groceries during the annual event. (Photo/C. Guynn)

'We Can' food give-a-way



(Above) Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church recently hosted their annual "We Can" food give-a-way, which was coordinated by gospel music producer Al Hobbs (in Santa hat) of Aleho Productions. Hobbs takes a break with volunteers before handing out more bags of food.

Bruce Dixon (left) is assisted by Tommie Drake during Mt. Olive's event. (Photos/C. Guynn)



During the Nathaniel Lee Law Office's annual Christmas give-a-way, owner Lee (center) assists others with distributing the gifts.



Indianapolis Colts running back Edgerrin James (left) and Amp Harris of Amp Harris Productions give 7-year-old Sabrina Spencer a present during the annual event. (Photos/C. Guynn)



Mt. Paran Baptist Church held its annual Shoe Give-A-Way at the Indiana State Fairgrounds last week. Issac and Solomon Maybury were among the recipients as their mother Wendy and brother Jahl, were on hand to witness their excitement. (Photo/J. Hurst)

Unleavened Bread Cafe provides for the less fortunate



Unleavened Bread Cafe recently provided food baskets to needy families for the holidays. Mays Chemical Company provided nearly 90 percent of the funds for the annual giving. Mike Kelly (left) and Pastor Joseph Reaves congratulated Aundrea Ricketts after being selected as one of the recipients.



Liturgical Dancers performed praise routines.



Denise Womack (left) and Landrum Shields prepared meals for the community. Local author, Ted Boyd was also in attendance giving away copies of his book "The Black Snowflake." (Photos/J. Hurst)

Business

D SECTION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2003

THE INDIANAPOLIS
Recorder
www.indianapolisrecorder.com

BLACKONOMICS

Like what you're getting? Then keep doing it

By JAMES CLINGMAN
NNPA



Once again (sounds like a broken record) Cincinnati is in the national and international news for being the city where a Black

man cannot stand on the street, sit in his car, hold a brick, or go to the store for a soft drink without getting killed by police officers.

Of course I am generalizing only because, unless you have been in a "spider hole" for the past couple of years, you know what I am talking about.

Cincinnati and many of its citizens, both Black and white, continue to amaze me. I am amazed

"What happened to Cincinnati? I say nothing happened. Things have been this way for quite some time; it's just that the cover was finally pulled off..."

at the apathy; I am amazed at the lukewarm resistance; I am amazed at the fear; and I am amazed at the lack of righteous indignation at what has to be one of the worst cities in America for police/community relations and economic disparity.

Cincinnati is ground zero, and the world awaits our decision on how we will deal with the latest in a long line of debacles that plague this town. No need to recap the things of the past; you already know our history. Suffice it to say that just eight years ago Cincinnati was named the nation's "most livable" city. What that term "most livable" means is certainly open for debate, but imagine what people around the world think as they look at Cincinnati now and see that yet another Black man has been killed by the police.

What happened to Cincinnati? I say nothing happened. Things have been this way for quite some time; it's just that the cover was finally pulled off Cincinnati when Timothy Thomas was killed. Just read some of the writings of Carter G. Woodson and you will see what I mean. In one article titled, "Negroes of Cincinnati Prior to (the) Civil War," Woodson wrote, "In 1807 ... the legislature enacted another measure providing that no Negro should be permitted to settle in Ohio unless he could within 20 days give bonds to the amount of \$500, guaranteeing his good behavior and support." Woodson went on to write, "They (Black people) were not wanted in this city but were tolerated as a negligible factor."

Wendell P. Dabney, a newspaper publisher and entrepreneur who lived in Cincinnati, wrote a book in 1926 titled, *Cincinnati's Colored Citizens*. Read what he said about his hometown. In describing what took place in 1862 during "The Siege of Cincinnati," Dabney wrote, "The colored men were roughly handled by the Irish police. From hotels and barber shops, in the midst of their labors, these helpless people were pounced upon and often bare-headed and in shirtsleeves ... at the point of the bayonet, and gathered in vacant yards and guarded." Dabney also described several "riots" in Cincinnati during which

► See OHIO, Page D2

SHORTCUT TO SUCCESS

Job readiness program teams up with Wishard to offer successful jobs

By ERICKA C. WHEELER
Staff Writer

Are you looking for a program that will enhance your education skills? Are you looking to work in the medical field or with computers? Are you looking for success fast?

Look no further than the new Shortcut to Success program, which offers many courses that may utilize your skills.

It's no secret that people are looking to become certified and trained in little time. Programs offered at Shortcut to Success last between three and six weeks. "Depending on one's education level it may take longer," said Neighborhood Network Coordinator Donna Williams.

The new program began Dec. 1 and will take the current class approximately five weeks. "We had to give the students more time for learning terminology required for courses," said Williams.

All classes are offered at Sutton Place apartment complex located at 9415 Stouffer Court.

Microsoft Office Users Specialist (MOUS) is not one of the new programs, but is very useful to some of the current students. "We lost one of the sponsors of this program, but our instructor is still with us and students like the program and grasp the concept very well," Williams explained.

Shortcut to Success teamed up with Wishard Hospital officials to come up with a new job



During the pharmacy technician training program, instructor Darlene Taylor (standing) assists Hollis Jones (left) and LaTasha Hampton with logging in programs on the computer. (Photo/E. Wheeler)

readiness program in the pharmacy area.

"Wishard (Hospital) is in need of a host of pharmacy technicians," said Williams. "We approached them about teaming up with them and they agreed. We held several meetings to see what they (Wishard) wanted the trainees to learn."

A pharmacy technician will

assist the pharmacist and handle medications. As long as they have a clean criminal record they will be ready for hire after completion of the program and also may receive several raises within the year of working at the hospital.

"We also prepare the students for their national certification in

► See SUCCESS, Page D2

Celebrating the holidays with clients

At Changes Total Salon in Broad Ripple, owner Brenda Petty (left) engages in a conversation with one of her clients during the salon's recent Christmas gathering. Clients, friends and family were invited to purchase products offered at the salon as well as enjoy various types of finger food. (Photo/E. Wheeler)



100 Black Men, UBS teach students 'art of financing'

By JOSHUA COHEN
Staff Writer

Two Indianapolis students competed in the UBS Financial Services Inc. and 100 Black Men of America Financial Literacy Dollars & Sense Competition in Atlanta this month.

Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School senior Evan Campbell and Lawrence Central senior Victoria Overdorf took home

first prize at the competition, earning each of them a \$3,000 college scholarship.

"These young people really represented themselves well," said Everett T. Lewis, treasurer for the 100 Black Men. "It was a very excellent program. It gave the students the opportunity to get exposed to something most adults don't understand."

The two students beat out other teams from across the nation to

receive the prize. They had to put together a portfolio and make a presentation based on their earnings and what they have learned since beginning the program. Representatives from UBS served as judges and asked students questions during or after their presentations to see if they could apply basic knowledge.

"This was more than I expected going into this," said Overdorf about the overall experience. "It was every Saturday. This was a sacrifice and I wasn't sure if it would be worth it."

It was. Both of the seniors learned valuable lessons for their futures in investing. "This is a great program for any student who wants to learn to save money, take a little and make it grow," said Lewis, who helped them prepare for the competition and accompanied the students to Atlanta. "The most important aspect of this is these kids learned the art of investing."

Campbell was confident going into the competition. "We prepared extremely well. I wasn't nervous at first." At the end of the competition, however, things got a little tenser. There were two ties between the Indianapolis team and the other final team from

► See ART, Page D2

Black Business Profile

Full name of business:
Lady A's Personal
Chef Service

Address:
2070 E. 54th St., Ste. 2,
Indianapolis, IN 46220

Phone:
(317) 254-1217

Fax:
(317) 254-1231

Year opened:
2002

Owner:
Chef James W. Bryant

Number of paid employees:
2

Product/services:

We provide menus customized to clients' specifications ranging from heart healthy foods to international cuisine. Clients may select to have meals prepared weekly, biweekly or monthly in their homes. Delivery services are also available. Additional services include lunches, intimate dinners, dinner party prep, kitchen organization and additional grocery shopping.

Significant business advances/achievements:

We enjoy exposing families to delicious, innovative and healthy meals in their homes. Our service allows families to spend quality time together daily. In addition, we participate in various community service projects pertaining to health and wellness for all ages.

Future goals:

Our main goal is to continue to provide quality service to our clients. We are also looking forward to being able to purchase a central kitchen in order to increase our production capabilities. We would also like the opportunity to work with community organizations to provide mentorship to our youth.

What are some of the obstacles you faced and how did you overcome them?

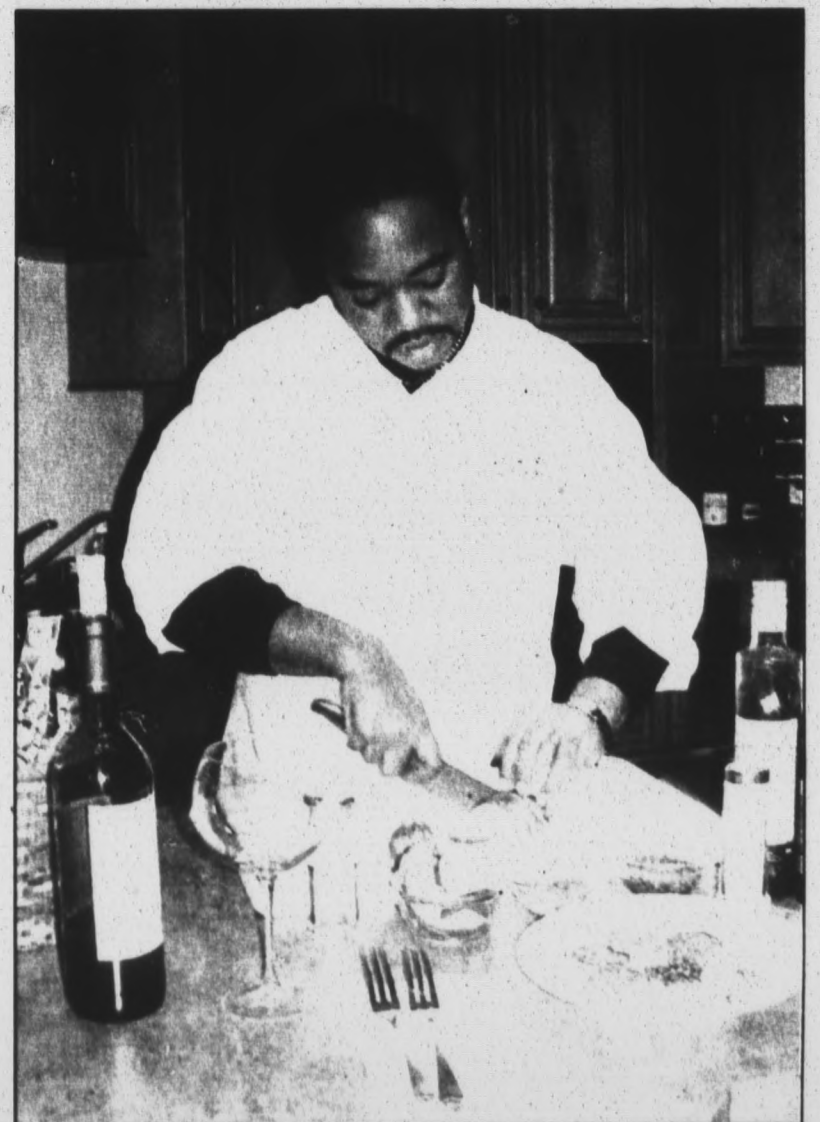
Exposure was an obstacle. Also, getting families to understand the benefits and affordability of a personal chef. Lady A's Personal Chef Service overcame these obstacles by joining the United States Personal Chef Association and networking with a variety of organizations and working professionals. Everyday is a learning and growing experience.

Who does your business best serve and why?

We serve busy families in need of quality times and quality meals. Imagine coming home from a busy day and your tired and hungry. What's for dinner? You open your refrigerator and a delicious and nutritious meal prepared and packaged by Lady A's Personal Chef Service is ready to heat and eat in minutes. The best part is, you did not have to stop, cook or clean up. It was all done by your very own personal chef.

How has your experience helped to meet the needs of your clients?

With over 14 years of culinary experience ranging from banquet catering to personal catering, I have been exposed to a full range of cuisine tailored to satisfy various palates. Through my professional experience, my passion for cooking has stayed constant as well as rewarding.



Chef James Bryant, owner of Lady A's Chef Service, makes the final preparations for this meal. (Photo/E. Wheeler)

If you would like to be featured in the Recorder's Black Business Profile, call 924-5143.

OHIO

► Continued from Page 1

thousands of Black people were run out of town and others were killed by "angry white folks."

Here's the real kicker, and this supports what Mumia Abu-Jamal called in his editorial on the Nathaniel Jones death at the hands of white police officers, the "Big Nigger Defense" or the "BND." In Dabney's book there is an excerpt from an article titled, "The Negro in Cincinnati," written by Frank Quillan, who was working on his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan in 1910. The Quillan document was the result of a study of the status of the Negro in the life of Cincinnati, prepared under the direction of the Department of History at the University of Michigan.

The article begins with a quote from Samuel J. Tilden, Democratic candidate for presidency in 1876, who called the entire state of Ohio a "dead nigger state." After citing several discriminatory practices against Blacks in Cin-

cinnati, Quillan poses the question, "What are the causes for this strong prejudice in Cincinnati? Among the seven reasons he gives is this one: "When a Negro commits a crime the newspapers always emphasize his race connection by such headlines as 'A Big Black Burley Brute of a Negro' does such and such, and the whole race gets a share of the blame; while if the crime is committed by a white man the race is not mentioned, and the individual gets the blame."

Nathaniel Jones has been demonized and described in the same manner, even being called a "deadly weapon" by the mayor of Cincinnati simply because of his weight. Mumia's BND scenario is not so outlandish now, is it?

So it's plain to see that very little has changed in Cincinnati when it comes to how Black folks are treated and mistreated by some police officers. Why haven't things changed? Because we,

Black folks, have not changed our response to these kinds of acts. We have marched, demonstrated, gone to jail, and we have had too many "race commissions" and "race dialogues" to list in this article. What should we do now, now after 40 years of marching and protesting, now after 250 years of the same mistreatment? Do you think there may just be an economic answer somewhere out there that we could use?

One thing I do know. We will keep on getting what we've always gotten if we keep on doing what we've always done.

James E. Clingman, an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati's African-American Studies department, is former editor of the Cincinnati Herald Newspaper and founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce. He can be reached at (513) 489-4132, or by e-mail at jclingman@blackonomics.com.

How to get the most out of financial planning

(NAPSI) — When working with a financial planner, you are the focus of the financial planning process.

As such, the results you get from working with a financial planner may be as much your responsibility as they are those of the planner.

Here are some tips from the experts at Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards (CFP Board) to help you prepare for your financial planning engagement:

- Set measurable financial goals.
- Set specific targets of what you want to achieve and when you want to achieve results. For example, instead of saying you want to be "comfortable" when you retire or that you want your children to attend "good" schools, you need to quantify what "comfortable" and "good" mean so you'll know when you've reached your goals.
- Understand the effect of each financial decision.
- Each financial decision you

make can affect several other areas of your life. For example, an investment decision may have tax consequences that are harmful to your estate plans. Or, a decision about your child's education may affect when and how you meet your retirement goals. Remember that all of your financial decisions are interrelated.

- Re-evaluate your financial situation periodically.

Financial planning is a dynamic process. Your financial goals may change over the years due to changes in your lifestyle or circumstances, such as inheritance, marriage, birth, house purchase or change of job status. Revisit and revise your financial plan as time goes by to reflect those changes so that you stay on track with your long-term goals.

- Start planning as soon as you can.

Don't delay your financial planning. People who save or invest small amounts of money early, and often, tend to do better than those who wait until later in life. Similarly, by developing good financial planning habits such as

saving, budgeting, investing and regularly reviewing your finances early in life, you will be better prepared to meet life changes and handle emergencies. There are many financial resources available online at sites such as www.CFP.net. Study your options.

- Be realistic in your expectations.

Financial planning is a common sense approach to managing your finances to reach your life goals. It cannot change your situation overnight; it is a lifelong process. Remember that events beyond your control such as inflation or changes in the stock market or interest rates will affect your financial planning results.

- Realize that you are in charge.

If you're working with a financial planner, be sure you understand the financial planning process and what the planner should be doing. Provide the planner with all the relevant information on your financial situation. Ask questions about the recommendations offered to you and play an active role in decision making.

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Tips for financial freedom in the new year

(NAPSI) — A new year can be a new opportunity to manage money more successfully.

Here are some tips on how to get out of debt, stay out of debt, and save some money from the experts at Novadebt, a national non-profit consumer credit counseling agency.

- (1) Take a moment to reflect on last year - what worked, what didn't and what you can change for the future.
- (2) Set goals. Make sure they are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound.
- (3) Open a savings account and commit to making a regular deposit into the account monthly.
- (4) Deal with debt. Increase the payment being made to creditors. Take a look at transferring balances on any credit cards to lower interest rate accounts. Speak with a credit

counselor about how to best approach your individual financial situation.

Signs that you are developing a problem with debt include not knowing how much is owed on existing bills, paying late fees more than twice in a year, having difficulty making minimum payments on credit cards, withdrawing money from a retirement fund to pay current bills, spending more than you earn and "dipping" into savings to cover debt.

- (5) If you don't already have a budget, take the time to develop one that fits the needs of the household. If you already have a budget, take a look at it again and re-evaluate spending and income, carry a book or notepad with you for a month. Log every purchase to help focus your mind on budgeting and help you reduce the amount of unnecessary purchases you make.
- (6) Begin contributing to a

401(k) plan. If you already have one, consider increasing the contribution. A 401(k) is an excellent way to make sure some money is set aside for retirement.

- (7) Schedule meetings with your family to discuss finances. Set up goals and a plan that the family can work on together.
- (8) Save spare change. You might be surprised at how much spare change can add up to.

Novadebt is a national non-profit social service agency that provides educational materials at no cost through brochures, articles, counseling, workshops and seminars. They conduct thousands of free budget counseling sessions and over 100 free financial workshops and seminars each year.

For more information, or a free consultation with one of Novadebt's certified credit counselors, call 1-800-99-BILLS or visit www.novadebt.org.

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SUCCESS

► Continued from Page 1

this program as well," said Williams.

Currently seven students are enrolled in the pharmacy technician program and three others will join within the next few weeks.

If dealing with medication is not your niche then maybe medical transcription is. If you enjoy typing then maybe this area of the medical field is for you. Also offered by the Shortcut to Success program, the program currently has no students signed up but is set up and ready for students to come in and learn.

"This job entails a lot of typing. One may listen to doctors on a tape and just transcribe notes all day," Williams said.

"But we are known for our computer program," she said.

They call it Building Keep Computers - where learners will build their own computer, learn to work the software and learn to troubleshoot.

"After completion of this program a trainee will know how to

fix minor problems with a computer," said Williams.

The best thing about this program is that trainees are allowed to keep the computers that they build.

Along with the four programs offered with the Shortcut to Success program students will also learn basic customer service skills. "This is offered with every course as it is very much needed for each program offered here," she said.

We also offer GED programs where we will teach students in the areas that they are unfamiliar with to prepare them for the GED test.

"There is quite a bit of math that one must know for the pharmacy technician training program and we want our students to be prepared."

If you are interested in the three to six week training programs offered by Shortcut to Success program contact Esther Whitley or Donna Williams at (317) 895-8253.

ART

► Continued from Page 1

Florida. "After the ties I was very nervous," Campbell remembers. Their Saturday sessions and intense preparation paid off, however, as the team came out on top of the second tiebreaker to win.

"I think it's great for these kids to win a national award," said Matthew Will, a professor of finance at the University of Indianapolis. "Now they can say they're the best in the country." Will also helped Lewis teach the students financial concepts and

prepared them for Atlanta.

This is the third year of the competition, but the first year the Indianapolis chapter of the 100 Black Men has participated. They were given a \$5,000 grant from the national office to implement the program.

The students were very grateful to have this opportunity and excited about winning. "Everyone was a big help," said Campbell of his coaches Will and Lewis, and Murvin Enders as well, a leader of the 100 Black Men.

SUMMONS

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Community Addiction Services of Indiana, Inc. (CASI) has counseling positions available for licensed and/or masters level social workers. Counselors will provide substance abuse counseling to youth and adults in a not-for-profit treatment setting. CASI is an E.O.E. and offers competitive salary and benefits. Qualified applicants may submit resume **Attn: H/R Director** by 1-9-04 to: **CASI Inc., 1040 E. New York St., Indpls., IN 46202; fax 317.633.8153; email: CASI@communityaddictionservices.org**

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Send resume, a cover letter explaining your interest in the position and how your experience qualifies you and the names and contact information of three references who sufficiently know of your work experience to: **United Way of Central Indiana, HR, 3901 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46208, E-mail: davis@uwci.org. Fax: (317) 921-1388. The targeted resume deadline is January 16, 2004.**
EOE

KYSER
► Continued from Page 6
ing the level of my game. I personally don't think I'm a good player, I never have been, but I've always been a worker. I don't think I'm quite there yet, but in a couple of months with hard work I think I've got a shot.
What has been the biggest change for you from college to professional ball?
I think the biggest change by far with basketball is the fact that it is your job to produce and play well every time you play, which by human nature is impossible. Some days you will be off in shooting or passing or just all around. It's quite an amazing thing to have your job be performance based and everyone surrounding you dealing with that as well. Now, in college of course it is the same, but professionally there is a level of "cut-throat" that I assure you does not exist in college.
COLTS
► Continued from Page 6
but a continually improving Texans' squad is assured to give the Colts a tester next week in the season finale.
"Houston is a big game for us, we're going to have our hands full going down there. It's a must win game for us now. We need to turn around and regroup pretty quick," Dungy said.
"We'll be ready to play, no doubt," he added.
With one game left and the division on the line, the playoff-bound Colts still have to show up, or risk losing more ground in their quest for post-season success. There will be no crowd in their favor, no "MVP" or "Go Colts" chants, only a team who would not mind taking the division crown from them. The time away may be exactly what's needed.
Until the playoffs, that is.

PACERS
► Continued from Page 6
were worthy of having the top spot in the East, the Pacers edged the Pistons, 80-75.
I'm sure that if the Pacers could re-play the Minnesota Timberwolves on Dec. 20 they would. As a team, the Pacers shot 35.4 percent from the field as the TWolves hit 52.2 percent of their shots.
While the Pacers attempted 11 three-pointers and only hit four, the TWolves attempted six and made three. And to make matters worse, the TWolves shot 84.4 percent from the free throw line while the Pacers almost failed, shooting 62 percent.
Although the Pacers had back to back games and Minnesota was well rested after two days off, it is no excuse to be down as many as 36, lose by 22 and lose the battle in the paint by 10.
Reggie Miller who in the beginning of the season said he was ready to put his ankle injury of last season behind him and prove to the fans that he could still play and average a decent amount of points, only attempted one shot, a three-pointer, which he missed.
In the last five games, Miller has averaged 28.2 minutes averaging 6.5 shots attempted per game. He has made 1.8 of those shots and is averaging a weak 4.8 points a game.
I give the home team credit because they are leading the East and along with the Lakers have won 20 games. It's just that when they lose to teams such as Chicago and Orlando in the same week and then get blown out by a team like Minnesota I get worried. Yes, the TWolves are playing well this year, but to beat the Pacers by 22 shows me that the Pacers didn't have enough heart and intensity to win the game.
The Pacers next home game is Dec. 27 against the New Jersey Nets.

PLUMBER-STEAMFITTER PIPE TRADES APPRENTICESHIP
The Plumber-Steamfitter J.A.T.C. will accept applications to their apprenticeship program as the Local 440 Union Building, 3747 South High School Road, Indianapolis, Indiana at 1:00 p.m. on the following dates:
Monday thru Friday, Feb. 9 - 13
Monday thru Friday, Feb. 16 - 20
Applicants must be on time to receive program information as a group. Applicants must be 17 years of age or older to apply, and 18 years of age prior to being indentured by J.A.T.C. and be a high school graduate, or have a GED certificate.
Qualified applicants will be required to furnish a copy of their birth certificate and driver's license, copy of their high school diploma or GED certificate, and an official transcript of their high school grades at a later date.
Applications will be taken on the dates listed above, however, there are no immediate openings at this time.
This is an equal opportunity program.

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The Indiana State Department of Health is currently seeking to fill a Public Health Administrator I position. The minimum qualifications: Three (3) years full time professional experience in administration of health programs, community health, direct patient health care, hospital administration, public health, or related experience. At least two (2) years of the required experience must be in an administrative, leadership, managerial, or supervisory capacity. A Bachelor's degree from an accredited four year college in Business Administration, Epidemiology, Health Administration, Health Education, Hospital Administration, Nursing, Public Administration, Public Health or related are required. Accredited Graduate training in any of the above areas may substitute for up to one (1) year of the required experience, except for the administrative, leadership, managerial, or supervisory experience.
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Jersey No. 44 to be raised into the IUPUI rafters

By **ERICKA P. THOMPSON**
Staff Writer

Tiffany Kyser made such an enormous impact on IUPUI women's basketball that her jersey No. 2 is being retired.

Kyser graduated last spring as the leading rebounder and second leading scorer in IUPUI history. She is one of only three players in Mid-Continent Conference history to score at least 1,500 career points and grab at least 800 career rebounds.

During her senior year, Kyser was named Mid-Con Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year, while also earning First Team-All Conference recognition for the third consecutive year. More impressively, the four-year letter winner was a finalist earlier this year for the NCAA Woman of the Year Award.

Kyser currently plays professionally in Greece and recently talked with The Recorder about the amazing honor, what is it like playing in Greece and her hopes of one day playing in the WNBA.

How does it feel to be the first female in IUPUI history to have your jersey retired?

Kyser: It is an incredible honor and I'm blessed to have it bestowed upon me on my first day back home from a four-month journey across the world getting paid to play basketball! I don't think of a



Tiffany Kyser, now a professional basketball player in Greece says she is honored to have her jersey retired at IUPUI.

better way to start off my first day of my brief visit home.

How did you find out about the "retirement party"?

Well, Kevin (sports information director at IUPUI) contacted me via e-mail and told me that my jersey was going to be retired this year. I gave him the dates of when I'd be home and it happened that we could have it during the game the day I came back.

What do you think your major accomplishment was as a basketball player at IUPUI?

I think my biggest accomplishment was getting Mid-Continent Conference Scholar Athlete of the Year because it showed that I was not just an athlete, but a student as well.

How did you end up playing professional ball in Greece?

My agent had been shopping me around the entire summer to different teams in Europe and Panerraios MGS Red Lions in Serres, Greece (They are in the Hellenic Basketball Federation, First Division in Greece) was the team that had the most promising offer.

How are you playing?

I'm playing OK. In the pre-season (Sept. 3-Oct. 3) I played particularly well and was averaging 20 points and eight rebounds a game. But as the

wrapup of the first round is approaching (Oct. 3-Dec.21), I've struggled with playing different positions due to some of my teammates being injured as well as dealing with a coaching change. I am now currently averaging around 12 points and four rebounds, but I'm optimistic and hope to get settled into the new plays and coaching style. I am a starting shooting guard/small forward, but in the course of one game I sometimes play four positions on the floor; point guard, shooting guard, forward, power forward. I normally play the entire game (40 minutes) or 38 minutes.

How is the team doing?

The team is struggling. We're currently 3-7. We do not have a strong bench, but are improving with the hiring of a new coach on Dec. 8.

What is the food like?

Greek food is absolutely wonderful. It's a cross between soul food and MCL cafeteria. I got one word for you, baklava (traditional Greek sweet and I can't get enough of it.)

Do you have any plans on pursuing a career in the WNBA?

I would love to play in the WNBA. It's just a matter of rais-

► See **KYSER**, Page D5

DIVISION STILL UP FOR GRABS

Colts miss opportunity against playoff contender

By **BARATO BRITT**
Recorder Correspondent

The Indianapolis Colts will have to wait until after Christmas to get the gift they've worked for all season.

Following a disappointing 31-17 loss to the Denver Broncos Sunday night at home, the Colts did more than expose weaknesses against a team they will likely face in the postseason.

Now sitting a not-so-pretty 11-4, the Colts best possible finish still nets them an AFC South division title, but only a third seed in the playoffs. The good news is with a win, the Colts will finally gain the elusive home playoff game and the raucous Indy fans that go with it. The bad, aside from their likely opponent, is that the Colts have been better away from home this season, losing three of their four defeats in the friendly confines of the RCA Dome.

Head coach Tony Dungy ac-

knowledge the magnitude of the loss afterward, but is not ready to hang the teams' collective head by any means. Their primary goal, at present, the AFC South title, is still well within their grasp.

"It's disappointing because we had so much to play for, so much at stake," said coach Dungy. "We're playing at home, we had a great crowd going and we just didn't get the job done."

Week 16 is not the time to show other playoff bound teams how to beat you. Unfortunately, the Colts did exactly that.

It's no secret the biggest knock on the Colts D remains their inability to stop the run. Even with pro-bowler Clinton Portis out nursing knee and ankle injuries, Denver ran all over the Colts for a combined 227 ground yards and three touchdowns. The Broncos run dominance also allowed them to control the clock to the tune of almost 45 minutes, nearly three times the Colts' time of possession.

"Any time a team runs for 230 yards and keeps the ball for that long it's going to be tough," Dungy said. "There's a good chance we'll play these guys again down the road so we're going to have to examine that and see how we play them next time."

The Colts, conversely, were unable to do much on offense at all, with a Denver pass rush that kept quarterback Peyton Manning on his heels all night. The Colts quarterback struggled throughout, completing a mere 12 passes for 146 yards. Manning's pro-bowl teammate Marvin Harrison provided the most punch, catching six passes for 85 yards, but no scores.

While Manning was the clear MVP favorite following his five-touchdown performance vs. the Falcons last week, his stock may have dropped with the egg laid against Denver Sunday, particularly when division rival Tennessee has posted a similar record on the arms and legs of a beaten

up Steve McNair. The Titan QB's last minute heroics against the Houston Texans keeps McNair in an MVP race that includes Manning, the Eagles' Donovan McNabb and pro bowl snub Tom Brady. Manning did make history Sunday however, becoming the only QB in league history to throw for 4,000 in five straight seasons.

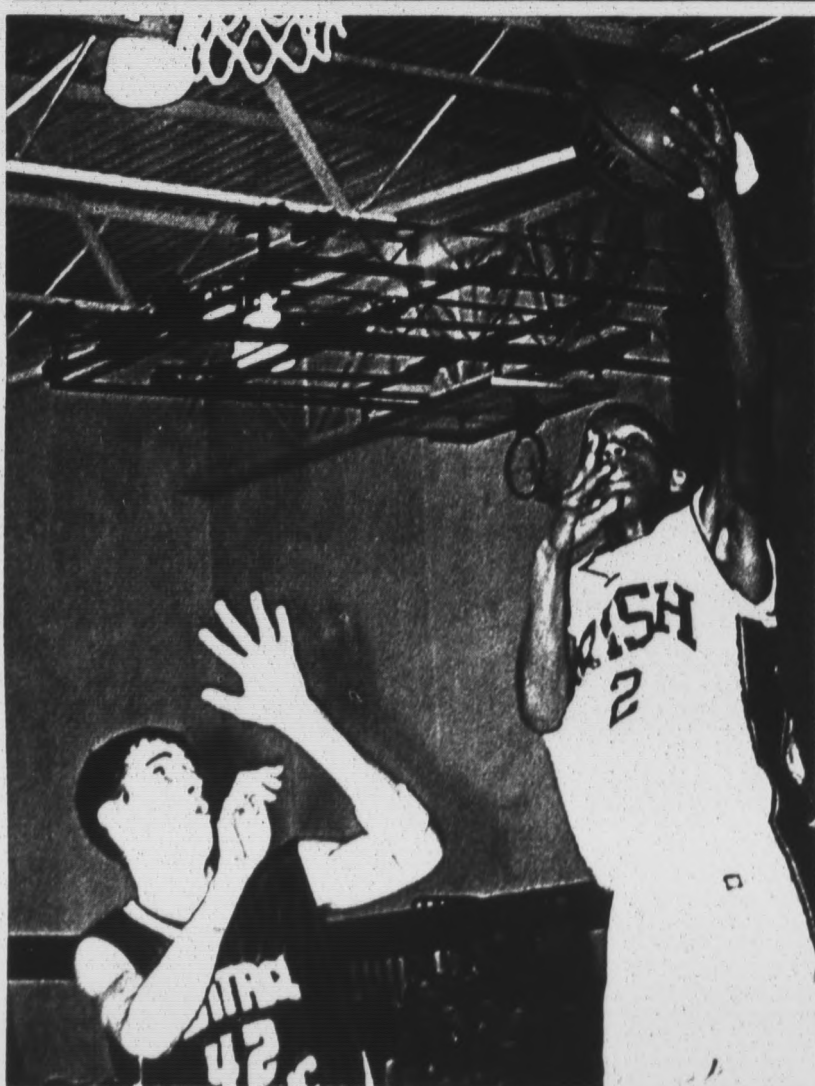
Possibly more disappointing, the Colts entered Sunday night's game knowing the importance of victory, given Kansas City's implosion in Minnesota Saturday night and the Titans 27-24 comeback effort against Houston.

But all is not lost, and with a solid effort in week 17, the Colts will remain a favorite to at least reach the AFC Conference finals.

The Colts conclude the regular season against the division rival Houston Texans in Reliant Stadium Sunday afternoon. They beat the Texans 31-21 in week 8,

► See **COLTS**, Page D5

HIGH SCHOOL ACTION



Steven Thomas (No. 2), guard for the Cathedral High School's Fighting Irish, shoots over Central Catholic High School's Alex Loepker. Central pushed the Irish to overtime, but Cathedral edged out a 58-56 victory to improve their record to 4-0. (Photo/J. Hurst)

Pacers must continue to play with intensity

Will Miller step up?

By **ERICKA P. THOMPSON**
Staff Writer

A couple of weeks ago, the media clobbered Rasheed Wallace of the Portland Trail Blazers for voicing negative comments about NBA referees. What I witnessed with my own two eyes at the Indiana and Detroit game at Conseco Fieldhouse, I would say Wallace has every right to complain.

It seemed to me that Kevin Fehr, referee No. 39 had a vendetta out against the Pacers.

During the first quarter the Pacers went to the free throw line once. In the second and third quarter not one Pacer player stepped foot on the free throw line. It wasn't until the 9:41 mark in the fourth quarter when O'Neal was fouled that the Pacers made their second trip to the line. Although in the end both teams received an equal opportunity for free shots, Pacers attempted 19 while Detroit attempted 22, I



O'Neal scored 16 points and grabbed five rebounds in the loss to Minnesota.

thought the home team should have had at least 10 extra freebies.

The Pacers played big in the fourth quarter outscoring the Pistons, 33-19. O'Neal ended the game with 19 points and 11 rebounds and Ron Artest added 22 points and nine rebounds. In a game they needed to prove they

► See **PACERS**, Page D5

GAME POINTS



Josh is right

By **ERICKA P. THOMPSON**
Staff Writer

All I have to say is "Peyton Manning for MVP."

It is so obvious that no one in the NFL deserves that honor other than Manning because Josh and I actually agree.

We both said that there is no way to argue against Manning and give the trophy to some other non-deserving football player.

The MVP honor is for the most valuable player in the NFL. He is also considered the most valuable player on the team because without him the team would either fall apart or at worst, obtain a losing record. For example, the Atlanta Falcon's without Michael Vick.

Although the Colts as a team has not played a second post season game in quite some time, Manning still managed to have good years. But this year at 11-4, having already clinched a playoff spot and will probably clinch the division, Manning is having an exceptional year that sets his accomplishments far above the other candidates.

Manning became the fifth quarterback in NFL history to throw five or more touch down passes twice in the same season. He is the leagues passing yards leader with 3,901 yards and leads the NFL with 28 TD passes.

Colt's running back Edgerrin James says it best: "It's a good thing we've got Peyton. He's 'The General' out there, he's controlling everything."

Of course you have to give props to the folks who run the ball and catch Manning's bombs, James, Dominic Rhodes, Marvin Harrison, Marcus Pollard and Reggie Wayne. And without the 'D' Manning wouldn't be on the field for half of the game.

But it is Manning who throws the perfect spirals and it is Manning who effortlessly leads the team down the field when they're down two touch downs and there is only three minutes to go in the game, and win.

No Ericka, you're right

By **JOSHUA COHEN**
Staff Writer

There's a saying that when a person makes a prediction/statement, and they have to admit that it was wrong, that they are eating crow. Well as a man who is not afraid to admit when he's wrong, I will help myself to a nice, large helping of crow.

At the beginning of the season I didn't have too much confidence in Peyton Manning as an MVP-caliber quarterback. Not only is he easily a candidate for the 2003 season MVP, in my opinion he's the only candidate.

Every game you see Manning play, you are reminded of how important he is to the Indianapolis Colts. Sure he's an outstanding passer, that has never been in doubt. But this year, there's no question on whether he's a strong team leader who his teammates will listen to and respect.

Ever since the Manning and the Colts made history by overcoming a 21-point fourth quarter deficit against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, you knew no matter what happened, Indianapolis had a chance to win any game they played.

What's more important in a game where your team is trailing than confidence you can still win that game? Manning gives the Colts that confidence.

Even though he doesn't have the highest quarterback rating in the NFL, he has the stats when it counts. In the fourth quarter, Manning has the highest completion percentage in the NFL at 69.5 percent, the third highest number of touchdowns at 4, and the second highest quarterback rating at 91.1.

Oh, and let's not talk about his performance at home. He has a whopping 113.4 QB rating, 69.4 percent completion and only three interceptions. Speaking of interceptions, he only has nine so far this year and barring some sort of breakdown, he will likely end the year with at the most 11 give-aways, his lowest number since starting in the NFL.

Yes, it is so obvious Manning will win the MVP award this year that Ericka and I are actually agreeing! So mark this on your calendar, write it down for the ages, Manning will walk away with the honor, and that's no crow.

Knicks hire Thomas as president

The New York Knicks announced on Monday that NBA Hall-of-Famer Isiah Thomas has been named president, basketball operations. Thomas' first task will be evaluating a roster with the league's highest payroll and deciding whether any of those large contracts can be moved in a trade. Thomas was fired by the Indiana Pacers during the off-season after the team failed to make the second round of the playoff's three years in a row.

